

LOOKING DEEPER



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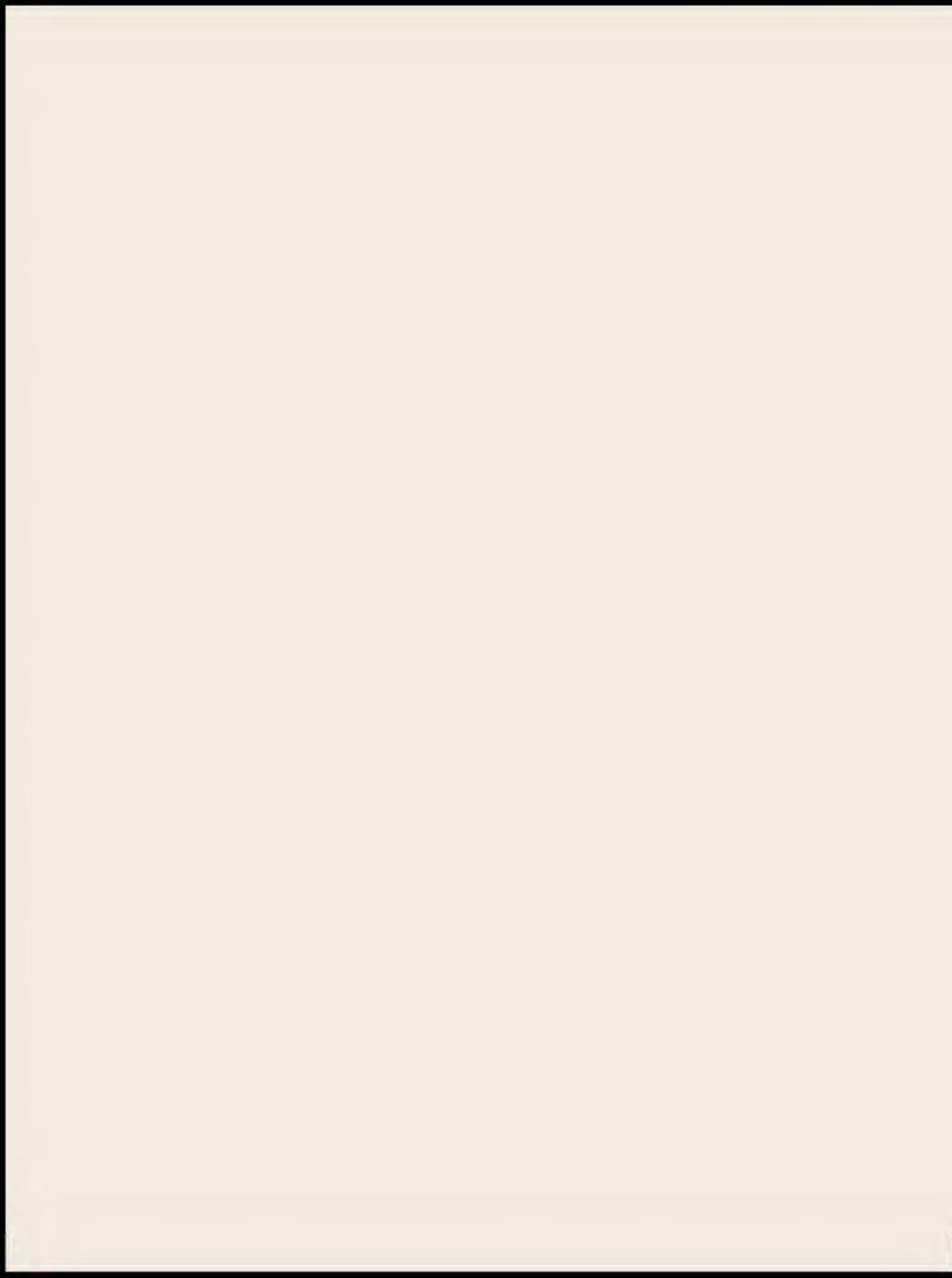
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LOOKING DEEPER



LOOKING

ON

Kelly Meeks looks deeper into a microscope. Biology students explored many wonders too small for the human eye.

MERRILLOUE 1997

MID-YEAR CHANGE IN PRINCIPALS BRINGS DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS

■ "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way..." ■ The nineteenth century as described by Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities* was so like high school as to not make a difference. We came into school looking forward to seeing old friends and reviving old relationships. Yet, hanging over this was the pall of doing school work and eating school food. ■ For many people it was the time to dedicate their resources to excelling in school. To many others it was the time to survive schoolwork and dedicate resources to having a good time with long absent friends. ■ It was the time for many to start selecting colleges. For some it was the time to adapt to high school life. It was the time to attain honors and distinction. It was the time to scrape and claw for a credit. It was the time to build a strong academic record. It was the time to pass time in sports and clubs. ■ The year and students were prepared to contrast themselves at every turn. ■ Everyone was in for a shock when Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz decided to

quit his job as principal and headed off to the sunshine of Florida. Students and teachers alike were sorry to see Rapacz go. His tactfully lenient style of administrating was something that most people missed. The only time students ever really saw him

was when he was standing in the hall. But, when he stood there, he was always ready to greet every student with a happy wave and a smile.

■ Forrest (Dusty) Rhode, former principal at Portage, stopped supervising student teachers for Indiana University Northwest and assumed the leadership role of Merrillville High School. He was a contrast to Rapacz. Rhode started a policy of keeping a closer eye on students and teachers. It was a rare day when he wasn't eating lunch in the cafeteria or attending some meeting about the betterment of the school. He wasn't content to merely smile and

wave at the students. He started and ended each day on the announcements with friendly words of advice and the painfully familiar phrase of "We deserve it."

■ The opposite methods of the two principals were the best way to put a masthead on the 96-97 school year. But, **Looking Deeper** into the year brought out all the other differences in the students and the school. ■ But, one thing was abundantly clear. As in "Nightfall," Isaac Asimov's classic short story, "The long night had come again."



GETTING UP TO SPEED ■ New Principal Dusty Rhode signs honor roll certificates.

BY CHRISTOPHER SIKICH

Looking On

PRESIDENT RAPACZ ■
Rapacz is honored for becoming
president of the Indiana High
School Principals Association.







“

"I fear we shall oversleep the coming morn as much as we this night have overwatched!"

Pirate fans were teaming with spirit for the first time in years. The minor clan from last year that dubbed themselves the Superfans came back tenfold and roused the cheering power of the Pirates. Their clan was turned into a schoolwide club sponsored by Mr. Nikisch. They went to football and basketball games with their bodies painted and wearing various costumes. They even had a commercial with Coach East asking for more recruits on P.N.N.

Other sports were favored with new section of fans, too. With the swimming seasons combined the girls and boys were able to cheer each other along at meets. The girls wrote signs for the guys at conference and the guys painted a letter of PIRATES on each of their chests and donned the warm-ups from the 70's.

Spirit was also expressed through spirit week before the homecoming games. Students went to school in Pajamas, robes, boxers, and other costumes.

At the dances queens and kings were chosen to represent the student body. The hallways and the hall of flags were decorated in the dance theme's style. Most students took their favorite date to the dance.

The school sponsored other events in which students were able to show their pride. During red-ribbon week all of the 2,000 students went outside and joined hands encircling the 12 acre school to show their support for the anti-drug movement.

During the blood drive the student body broke the record for most blood donated by the school for all time.

Students packed the auditorium for the performances the student actors put on. The response to the innovative plays was huge. Dracula took all students by surprise with its creativity and ingenuity.

Whatever the event, student-fans turned out in droves to cheer their fellow Pirates on. Sometimes past one or two overtime's into the night.

But, a lack sleep was never something a Pirate fan lost sleep over.

Chris Sikich

Looking Deeper SPIRIT

Homeless

Traditional Powder Puff game ends



What's a football game without extreme rivalry and unnecessary roughness? Needless to say, the 1996 Homecoming Powder Puff football game had all the qualities of an NFL Monday night football game.

The first game consisted of the Freshman Class versus the Sophomore Class. The first big play of the game came from sophomores on their kick off. As the freshman return team received the ball, they attempted a forward pass. The sophomores intercepted the pass receiving the ball on the 10 yard line and converting the turnover into a touchdown. Basically, the sophomores took over the game with that play.

Seniors versus juniors contained everything you could find in an NFL game, including cheerleaders, on the field interviews, and a halftime show. Deanna Semovski, '98, said, "I think most of the players took the game way too seriously. Even though we lost, it was still a fun experience for me." That's why there were so many problems with everyone while the game was being played. Snezana Obetkovski, '98, also commented, "We gave it our best effort and all that matters is that we had a fun time, even though it got a bit out of hand at times."

A rivalry between the seniors and the juniors that went too far contributed to the decision not to have a powder puff game next year.

■ Helen Andreatos

DANCING CLOSE

■ Moving gently to the music, Nicole Rakich looks into Doug Reeves's eyes at the annual Homecoming dance.

ONE LAST TIME

■ The senior powder puff team rides into battle on a fire engine during the Homecoming parade down Broadway.





MC Wolves sent packing

Pirates dominate Homecoming game



TIME OUT ■

Natalie Nimon,
Dymeata Jones,
Deanna
Gonzalez,
Barbara
Hoagland, and
Latoi Hughes
pause for a court
picture.

AT THE 'Y' ■

Students dance to "Y.M.C.A." by the Village People, an ever popular song at MHS dances.

Students knew Homecoming approached when male students showed up to school wearing nothing but boxers and a robe and started flashing people. Jay Richardson, '97, commented, "It was the scariest thing I've ever seen."

Spirit week was initiated to get students psyched up for the Homecoming game, but events like these seem to have the opposite effect on some of them.

Spirit Week was held from September 16-20. From Monday through Friday students were asked to wear concert T-shirts, Pajamas/boxers, disco or 70's clothes, class colors and purple and white.

Spirit Week left students with an emotional high for the Friday night Homecoming game.

The Powder Puff games also pumped students up on the day before the Homecoming game. The seniors beat the juniors, and the sophomores beat the freshmen.

Jamie Young, '97, commented, "I didn't run the wrong way this year."

Montell Pace, '97, was named as Mr. Football at the Pep Rally be-

fore the game by Coach Rick Wimmer.

The Pirate dominated the game ending with a final score of 35-2 against the Michigan City Wolves.

The court members were Deanna Gonzalez, Barbara Hoagland, Latoi Hughes, Dymeata Jones and Natalie Nimon. An overjoyed Deanna Gonzalez was crowned as the queen during the halftime show at the football game.

She commented, "The best thing about being the Homecoming Queen was representing Merrillville High School."

The Homecoming dance took place on the Saturday evening in the Hall of Flags. The theme for the dance was "Moonlight and Roses." Everything was decorated in colors of red, black and silver.

■ Chris Sikich



Red ribbons blanket MHS

Did you notice those red ribbons tied up everywhere during Red Ribbon Week? If you didn't you must have not been around Merrillville High School. Many activities took place during the week of October 21 including decorating the school.

The members of Students Against Drinking and Drugs stayed after school the Friday before the week started and decorated. Some made signs and hung them in the halls. Most of the members were in hallways, the commons, and outside tying ribbons to everything. A number of the SADD club members were making red and purple suckers in the shape of stop signs. The stop signs were to represent stopping the use of drugs. A group of students went outside during lunch hours and tied red ribbons to all the car antennas in the parking lots.

The first activity was the candlelight walk. The meeting place was at Pierce Middle School. Everyone who attended held lit candles in memory of loved ones and others who were victims of drug and alcohol deaths. More than fifty students, citizens, teachers, and parents showed to share support. They walked to the administration building where SADD club sponsor Jennifer Fuller and Quest club sponsor Jerry Kasarda explained the importance of Red Ribbon Week.

On Wednesday, all students were dismissed from their sixth hour classes at 2:45 p.m. Everyone went outside to form a huge circle around MHS and join hands. The joining of hands was to symbolize the students uniting to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol. A few reporters from Cable Regional came to film and interview students' opinions on the activities. Photographer Dennis Crane took aerial pictures on the event from a helicopter flown by Sargeant Richard Koby.

Homeroom doors were decorated by the students for a competition. The theme was "Danger Ahead - Think Drug Free Instead!" The doors were judged on Wednesday by principal Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz and some Merrillville police officers. The winner was Mrs. Wilson's freshman homeroom. They received doughnuts and juice for their participation.

■ By Natalie Nimon

S.A.D.D. takes over for the week



UNITING ■
Kari Forster and Jennifer Johnson come together at the candlelight walk. Candles were handed out to students, faculty, and the public as a remembrance of those who have died because of drugs and alcohol.



Red eyes

Late nights were common events



This year's preparations for Red Ribbon Week took a great deal of planning, patience, and time from the SADD members.

Club president Kari Forster, '97, coordinated all of the activities. Forster reported that the members broke off into different groups and came up with great ideas. The candlelight walk is an activity that takes place annually. The previous years it was sponsored by the Quest Club; however, this year SADD took over. A large number of students, teachers, and community members came to walk and show their support.

A new activity was called "Hands Around MHS." The idea for this event, which was to involve everyone at school in joining together against drugs, came from Jennifer Johnson. Plans had to be made to make sure there was security present and ample time for the activity. Dennis Crane was also contacted to take a picture from a helicopter to allow everyone to see how it worked.

Club sponsor Jennifer Fuller feels the sale of the suckers was the activity that went best according to plan. Members came in on a Sunday afternoon to make the suckers. Over three hundred were sold in less than two hours.

Kari said that, "If we make one person think twice about drinking or doing drugs, then we achieved our goal."

By Natalie Nimon

ANTS, ANTS

An aerial view taken by Dennis Crane showed "Hands Around MHS." This is a new activity for students as the SADD club became active again for the first time in four years.



Special Effects Make Dracula

Actors work to make play a success

Although some of the cast members were first time actors, they managed to capture the audiences with their spectacular performances. One example of this was where the feared Dracula, played by first time actor Alex Malinovich, '98, is stabbed in the heart with a wooden stick. Special effects also helped make the play a great success. For example in one scene Dracula seemed to disappear off the stage into thin air.

Even in the best of plays problems appear, and this was no exception. On one occasion, one of the lead actors threw a temper tantrum and held up practice for half an hour. Another example was when a person with less parts in the play got mad at one of the lead actors and started giving an attitude. Even with those type of problems going on, the whole cast and crew did the mature thing, which was forget all their anger and do their best.

Even though the actors and actresses were very important, they needed the crew to help put the sets together. Then they also had a student director, Mary Johnson '98, without her, they would have had even more of a hard time. Even with all the problems Mike Glorioso, '99, said, "It was a great experience for all of the new and old actors, actresses, and crew members." Katy Cantrell, '98, added, "It took a lot of hard work and patience, but it all turned out great." After it was all over Mary Johnson '98 said, "Thank goodness it's over!"



IT'S A MOUSE

■ Mike Glorioso tells servant Deanna Price not to worry. She only saw a mouse.



Starting Out

New Stars are Born



Almost the whole cast of Dracula were new faces to the drama club. Three of the

main characters were brand new actors. They were; Alex Malinovich, '98, Zach Frank, '00, and finally Buddy Herzog, '98. However, by the final performance no one could really tell who was new and who wasn't.

At practices they worked hard to not get behind on the memorization of their parts. Even though they were new they had no special treatment.

When it came time to perform on stage in front of a full house that is when the jitters and butterflies started to hit. Malinovich mentioned that he was told to break a leg before going on stage, and he almost did literally.

Last minute jitters also caused a little problem with remembering their lines. They also ran into problems when it came to remembering their cues, and the spots where they were supposed to stand. They also got really dirty with the special effect blood.

After the show when they came out for a final bow there were sounds of relief throughout the whole stage. Relieved facial expressions also proved that they were happy to have made it without messing up too badly.

REAL TEARS

■ Mark

Schreiner cries on Lisa Farver's lap. The drama club presents a play every fall and a musical each spring.



On the job

Students keep long hours learning skills



What was HERO? Most students who heard about it didn't have a clue as to what the program was really about. HERO was a vocational education class that helped junior and senior students involved in the program get a head start in getting work and on-the-job experience.

Some of the students who were involved in HERO were, Ed Gonzalez, Jason Rubino, Amanda Szcurho, Jennifer Springer, and Kelee Williams.

There were many different businesses that cooperated with HERO by helping to place students in various jobs. Such businesses included The Child Enrichment Center, The Radison Hotel and Star Plaza Theater, Central Florist, Montgomery Wards, Gander Mountain, Carson Pirie Scott, Sears, Towne Center and, of course, good old McDonald's.

HERO was a three way partnership between students, parents, and community/business. Students were able to choose from a three or a four class school schedule before being released for work later on after their last class. HERO is different from other vocational programs such as the Gary Career Center and Vocational Trades because it had more variety and this program worked with the local businesses to give students on-the-job experience in addition to the class room setting.

Don DeLong

CAN I HELP?

■ HERO students Heather Stanley, Autumn Komisarcik, Jason Rubino, Christina McCann, and Karin Smith keep things organized during a meeting.

NEXT VICTIM

■ Students wait their turn during the annual Heartland Blood Drive sponsored by HERO. The blood drive held in early December helps eliminate the blood shortage over the holidays.



Working for an education

Students have school, a job, and homework



SPOOKY
Students and ghouls dance the night away at the Halloween Dance in the Hall of Flags.

TOGETHER

Two students dressed as the executioner of King Louis VII and Jason take time to enjoy the evening.

Students who were in the HERO (Home Economics Related Occupations) program were more than just students, they were as one might say super students. On top of going to school for the majority of the day they then left the school to go to work, and worked a full or close to full work day. Then after they went to work and did the job thing, they went home and did their homework. But their deeds did not stop there.

The members of the HERO program also sponsored and put on very successful extracurricular activities. The fun and somewhat spooky Halloween Dance was one such project headed by the HERO students. These students also worked on the annual school blood drive, made handmade Valentines for four area nursing homes, requiring more than 600 valentines, and sponsored Mommy-Daddy Date Night.

How many students were able to balance a job, school and homework last school year?

Not too many could handle the work load. How did some of these super students even find the time to go home and sleep, let alone working out all the details for a school dance or the blood drive.

The program was started about ten years ago and was headed by the Indiana State Legislation.

Make 'em Cry Wolf

With a winning basketball team and a Valentine's Dance to top off the celebration, this year's Homecoming proved to be a week of competition, anticipation, and fun.

The week began on Monday, February 3, with the ever popular PJ/Boxer Day, followed by Neon Color Day and College Sweatshirt Day on Wednesday. Thursday was Class Colors Day, and Friday was Purple and White Day.

Last year's new event of decorating the hallways was continued this year, with the award for the best hallway going to the Senior Class.

Friday night marked the peak of this year's Homecoming activities. The annual Hot Legs contest was held to determine which senior guy has the sexiest legs. The winner was John Foster, who did much preparing to ensure a win.

"I worked out extra hard every day to prepare myself for the big day. When I heard my number called, I was shocked because I think I have the skinniest stick legs in the world. I was exuberated with power and strength."

The J.V. and Varsity basketball teams attacked the Michigan City Wolves, and made their school proud by emerging victorious in both games.

At halftime, the princesses, king, and queen were crowned. The freshman court consisted of Krissi Mersot, Michelle Uremovich, and Janice Garcia. The sophomore nominees were Laura Luevano, Jackie Lopez, and Tamika Stegall. Christin Cirrincione, Jamie Modrak, and Ashley Dobis were the junior court members. The senior court for this year consisted of Barbara Hoagland, Rebekah Jusko, and Latoi Hughes for queen. The king candidates were Joe Moore, Brad Balcerak, and Joe Giordano.

The winners were Michelle Uremovich, Jackie Lopez, Christin Cirrincione, and the 1997 King and Queen were Brad Balcerak and Rebekah Jusko.

"When I was crowned, I thought of all of my friends and how important they are to me," stated Balcerak. "I'll remember them for the rest of my life." ■ **Krissy Malast**

Pirate victory tops off Homecoming



THE WINNER IS...

Eugene Vivo '97, had the privilege of announcing the winners.

THE LAST TIME

The senior court poses for a picture after the crowning of Rebekah Jusko and Brad Balcerak.





Pirate Pride

Seniors wrap up competition early



Walking around Homecoming week, one could feel the spirit and Merrillville

pride in the air. The class competition was getting close, for second place that is. The Senior Class had pulled ahead of everyone else long before. Still, the underclassmen tried their best to catch the class of '97.

After it was determined two years ago that the parade at half time took too much time, Student Government decided to go with a hall decorating contest. After school Thursday, groups from every class gathered in their designated hallways to try and out-decorate the others. Once again, the Senior Class came out on top. They filled "A" Hall with streamers, balloons, and a huge '97 on the wall. "There was no competition. The seniors annihilated everyone else spirit-wise," said Mike Coughlin, '97.

Even though it was sentimental for many, everyone agreed that it was a great last Homecoming for the class of '97. According to Eugene Vivo, "The whole week was really great. What made it so special was that it was our last one as seniors."

■ Stacey Brown

**NOTHIN'
BUT NET ■**

Neal Fedak goes in for a lay-up and shocks the MC Wolves.

IT'S YOU! ■

Laura Luevano, congratulates Jackie Lopez after Lopez was named the Sophomore Princess for 1997.



'We are family'

Practice, imagination, and a little teamwork were all it took to make the 1997 Revue a success once again.

With the theme, "We are Family," each of the acts were featured in a different part of the country as the big yellow bus traveled around.

The annual Revue, sponsored by the Speech and Debate team, attracted 400 people at each of the performances. Some of the highlights of the show were the "Jackson Girls," "Nate the Great," and the "Four Funk-a-teers."

Director of the Review Beverley Seaver felt the Revue was a success because "everyone knew what was expected of them, and they worked hard to achieve it. I thought that the Revue was a wonderful showcase for student talent at MHS."

One highlight of the Revue was "The Superhero Debate" featuring Brian Haussmann, '97, as Batman.

Haussmann's thoughts were, "It was a great performance, but it was a little water downed for the administration."

Another favorite act of the night was the "Four Funk-a-teers," two of them being Sam Carter and Al Barber, both '97. Carter, also the MC, felt "The show was the best performance we ever did. People were on their cues, and the audience liked the show." Barber also played the crazy bus driver.

According to Jeremy Rick, '98, "The Revue was good. It was very entertaining because it had a little bit of everything." Kelly Meeks, '97, thought, "The Revue was better than last year, but the audience was so rude."

Nick Gonzalez, '97, commented, "The Revue was very funny, especially the 'Four Funk-a-teers.'"

The Speech and Debate team used the money it raised through the Revue to finance a trip to national speech tournaments.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

**Revue
hops on
the big
yellow bus**



ROLLIN' ALONG

■ Speech team member Allen Barber performs as the crazy bus driver. This is the second year that Barber has participated in the Revue.





Last minute

Putting the pieces together



Last minute changes and a few little mistakes didn't stop the cast of the Revue from making the performance a success once again.

Contrary to what a lot of people thought, being in the Revue takes a lot of effort. In addition to the auditions, two weeks of practice were required for individual acts, one week for the technical crew, and two dress rehearsals. All in all, Sam Carter, '97, felt, "...it took a while to come together, but after we knocked off all the rough edges, it was a pretty good performance."

VOICELESS

■ Brad Balcerak, performs in the Revue with his band "Houdini." Normally the lead singer, Balcerak lost his voice before the performance. The band ended the show by playing the song, "Alabama."

Two of the last minute changes included the acts of the "Jackson Girls" and "Houdini." In the "Jackson Girls," Kim Pero, '97, stepped in at the performance with only three hours of practice. The other change included the lead singer of "Houdini," Brad Balcerak, '97. Balcerak unfortunately acquired laryngitis on the last night of the Revue, but "...the talented Kurtis Rund was able to pick up the slack and fill in for me on vocals," commented Balcerak.

Although practices never seemed to fit everybody's schedule, Carter still believed "it was a good show. Too bad this is my senior year, I'd love to do it again."

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

PUCKER UP COACH

Coach Ryan Pitcock hadn't planned on entering the charity "Kiss the Pig" contest, but he ended up winning anyway.

He explained, "Two young ladies said they needed someone to participate in the contest which was for charity, and that there was no need to worry because Coach (Lori)Dust always won."

He obviously took that line with a grain of salt as he told them that he would join only if every other teacher refused to participate. But, his name ended up on the ballot anyway.

Still, Pitcock was hopeful. He expected Dust to dominate the competition. However, due to the glee that his students and athletes felt at seeing his name on the ballot, Pitcock stayed at the front of the pack.

He commented, "I think some of my students felt the pig and I deserved each other. I am sure I should take it as a compliment. My students and athletes would not wish ill on me."

Pitcock ended up winning the contest by a sizable margin.

He commented, "Although a little barbaric, the 'Kiss the Pig' contest is a great way to get students and faculty alike involved in a great cause to help those who are less fortunate."

Many people considered Pitcock to be one of the "less fortunate." But oddly enough, he took a different view.

He remarked, "The pig was a little reluctant at first, but once we embraced, I think both of us were pleasantly surprised."

Pitcock seemed to enjoy the whole experience. On a PNN broadcast he expressed his wishes to dominate the contest during his tenor at Merrillville.

However, once he had time to stop and think about the whole thing, he realized that repeating might not be that easy.

He finished, "It is tough to repeat at anything. Straight A's, conference championships, 'Kiss the Pig' contests. I look for a darkhorse to emerge as victor. Although the pig makes the contest appealing, I am willing to pass the apron on to some other deserving teacher or principal."

■ **Chris Sikich**

**Pitcock
felt that
the pig
was a
good kisser**



WOW ■
*Andy Niksich
stared in open-
mouthed shock
as the pig was
wheeled out.*



Why me?

**Coach Ryan Pitcock
looked for an answer.**



In the article on page 19, Coach Pitcock expressed his hopes that he won the "Kiss the Pig" contest because his

students and athletes liked him, not because they wished him "ill."

Greg Denham, '97 cleared that little mystery up. He joked during an interview with some members of the swim team at lunch. "I didn't like him. I wanted to inflict the deepest sense of humiliation that I could."

At this point Matt Pavlovich, '98, grunted around a peanut butter sandwich, "97 one hundreds" perhaps referring to the New Year's Eve practice where the swim team was forced by Coach Pitcock to swim 97 one hundreds, or approximately 6 miles, on incredibly fast time intervals.

Brad Roy, '99, laughed, "I agree with Greg."

Obviously, Pitcock made a good impression on his athletes. Many of them felt that the charismatic coach deserved to win the contest. They stuffed money in his jar during every lunch hour and even brought a jar of their own to keep in the locker room.

When Pitcock was approached with these comments he replied, "It a good thing Denham's not going to be on the team next year."

The team seemed to immensely enjoy watching Pitcock kiss the large, hairy, black pig on the lips. They felt that it made his gruelling practices worthwhile.

Pitcock finished, "The Pig seemed more upset about me "winning" that I did."

I KISSED THE PIG ■

Ryan Pitcock glared at Coach Mark Rosenbaum as he smiled gleefully at the prospect of watching the kiss.



TECHS

What would you do without them?



During the musical there were many prop changes. Each change had a nearly 100 pound item to move away and another one to move back. Who did that work?

Not the actors and actresses, that work was done by none other than the stage crew. Without the stage crew the play would not have gone well at all.

Even though the stage crew did have a little bit of a problem getting things set up safely, they always got it done. Although some of the props were corny (the horse), all that did was add a little more humor to the musical.

The tech crew had to learn to work as one unit to get things done. If they wouldn't work as one than there would be tons of things to do. The more people worked together the easier things became.

The tech crew also had one person whom they had to listen to, that was the student director.

In this play most of the action was done behind the scenes, but most people never knew how much work it was to be in the tech crew.

Most of the time people just sat there and watched the tech crew put the scenes together. Other times they saw the big, red curtain go down. Everyone knew what happened next. The tech crew got every thing put together in time for a 15 minute intermission.

■ **Cathy Snelson**

ALRIGHT ■

We've got the first of the five things we need. "Into the Woods" put together a series of familiar fairy tales.

OH, NO ■

The wolf found Little Red Riding Hood, and now he wants to eat her.



'INTO THE WOODS'

The musical was called an adult fairy tale



SURPRISE

■ The witch played by Robin Childress popped out of nowhere. "Hansel and Gretel" was also one of the fairy tales.

WHERE IS THE BEANSTALK?

■ Jay Cermak played Jack of Beanstalk fame.

The Spring Musical was once again a great success.

The best part was a big change in the cast. The scenes were very creatively made. The castle that was elegantly made was a great touch according to many of those attending the musical.

The castle was where Rapunzel was held captive by her mother, the wicked witch. The castle was sturdy enough to hold the witch while she climbed up Rapunzel's hair.

The sounds of the woods and the smoke gave the woods a foggy look. The play was considered an adult fairy tale.

In this musical there were many well known characters from fairy tales we knew as children, like Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Probably the worst part about the musical was its length. It was three hours long with two separate parts. The last part was al-

most exactly like the first, but the conflict was with a giant instead.

"Into the Woods" had about five different scenes that kept rotating.

Unlike "Dracula" last fall, "Into the Woods" had very few special effects. The fog made the woods look more like it was night and made it seem scarier.

It's become a tradition to pick out new and different types of musicals. Last year's wasn't really new, but this year's "Into the Woods" was a different change for everyone.

■ Cathy Snelson



LAST DANCE

The 1997 prom, "You Were Meant for Me" took place May 17 at St. Elijah's Serbian Hall.

This year's prom was different than those of past years because the crowning of King and Queen and the Grand March took place before the dance in the Hall of Flags.

At 6 p.m. all who wanted to, gathered to see who would be the new King and Queen. Students had their pick of Jamie Modrak, Erisharon Johnson, Ashley Dobis and Christin Cirricione for Queen and Durey Lawrence, Jason Franzen, Andy Byrom and Nestor Riveria for King.

1996 Prom Queen Rebekah Jusko crowned Ashley Dobis queen, and 1996 King Brad Balcerak crowned Durey Lawrence king. After everyone strutted their stuff during the march, there was a police escorted motorcade to the hall.

Maryanne Foster, prom sponsor, said that having the activities before "...allows parents and friends to participate in the Grand March and Crowning. We will do the same next year because it keeps parents from crashing the prom...."

Black and Gold were the theme colors adorning all the decorations. Balloon archways and top hat centerpieces gave the hall a festive look. It was obvious how much time and effort the class of '98 had put into decorating.

After socializing and taking pictures, everyone sat down to dinner. Another change was that tables were reserved when students bought tickets, so everyone knew what table was theirs. This cut down on confusion over whose table was whose. There were not many complaints about the menu, which consisted of salad, bread, rice, potatoes, corn, roast beef, chicken, and ice cream for dessert.

Channel Z provided the entertainment. Most students felt that there was too little variety to the music, and that the music played was outdated. Despite this, many boogied the night away anyway.

Next year the prom will be on a Friday night instead of Saturday. The administration hoped this would cut down on students ditching the following Monday.

Prom proved to be a night to remember



STRUTTEN' THEIR STUFF ■

Queen Ashley Dobis and King Durey Lawrence led the Grand March down the stairs and across the Hall of Flags.

■ Stacey Brown



GRAND ILLUSION

Not all students were happy with the March



After a wave of parents and other unexpected visitors last year, those

in charge decided to move the Grand March and Crowning from their traditional time.

After tossing around ideas, they decided things would be best if the Crowning and March took place in the Hall of Flags before the dance. After this there would be a police escort to the hall.

There were mixed emotions about the events being held before the dance. Many students who had planned on attending were tied up in the lines at Golas, waiting for their picture "reservations," and missed it. Others who felt that it was just a bad idea skipped it all together.

"One of the greatest things about prom last year was having the video of the Grand March as kind of a reference. You could watch it and see who went with who, and everyone you missed at the dance. This year we were tied up getting pictures and missed it all together" said Krissy Malast '97.

Those who were able to attend didn't feel it was worth it.

"It was pointless," said Jessica Vargas, '97. "It was so much better last year. The Crowning and Grand March made a little break between dinner and dancing."

Despite the many complaints, there were no plans to change the March back.

MEANT TO BE ■ Marc Brower and Pam Niksich spend quality time dancing at prom. Although many students had hoped for more up-to-date music, most promgoers danced anyway.

■ Stacey Brown

ONE LONG DANCE

After hours of dancing, a post-prom event, and about four hours of sleep, students had one more day of fun to go.

Like past years, students spent the next day with their friends and dates. Most students followed the tradition of going to Great America or Turkey Run, while others spent the day at Warren Dunes. Still others went to Chicago to the museum or to the zoo.

Matt Aubin, '98, went to Turkey Run with his date, Jenny Kucik, '98, and other friends. At Turkey Run the day was spent walking along the trails, horseback riding, and canoeing. Aubin added, "It's one prom I'll never forget. I had fun, but I don't think I'll be returning to Turkey Run next year."

Shaun McLain, '97, also went to Turkey Run the day after prom. McLain, went with his date, Jamie Ulbrich, '98, and Brian Hausmann and Maureen Skura, both '97. They also spent day canoeing and walking the trails. McLain's fondest memory was, "being pulled over by the police twice in one day."

Corrin Argenta, '98, especially liked her day after prom because she got to spend time alone with her boyfriend talking. Argenta and her date, an MHS graduate, spent the day in downtown Chicago, going to Hard Rock Cafe, Navy Pier, Museum of Science and Industry, and Niketown. Argenta's final thought was, "The day was long, fun, and tiring!"

Mike Coughlin, 97, attended Great America the day after prom with his girlfriend, Kristina Malast, also '97. Coughlin's fondest memory was, "Making the long trip to Great America into an Indy 500 race and making it in 45 minutes!"

Samantha Dimoff, '97, spent the day after with her date Mike Filan at Warren Dunes. Dimoff commented, "It was a lot of fun. It was something different than the usual Turkey Run, Great America thing."

Whatever students chose to do the day after prom, they made the best out of it and had fun.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

**Students
followed
the day
after prom
tradition**



HANGING OUT ■

Prom goers hung out at a friend's house in Forrest Hills the day after prom.

STARTING OUT ■

These prom goers started off the day with a hearty breakfast at the house of Corrin Argenta.





STORMY TIMES

Severe thunderstorms shorted day.



The day started off in the 70's and sunny, with a

short rain in the late morning. After the brief rain, the sky cleared up and looked like a nice day was ahead...well, not quite.

MAKING A SPLASH ■

Several prom goers enjoyed the water rides at Great America despite the weather.

SHOWING IT OFF ■

Seniors who went to Turkey

Run the day after Prom took a minute to look back.

Although the day did broadcast thunderstorms, nobody thought they would be as severe as they turned out to be. By 6:30, tornadoes were being spotted all over the greater Chicago area.

Mike Coughlin, '97, commented, "It was the worst weather I've ever driven in. The girls were panicking, and the guys thought it was so cool. I had to get off the expressway because I couldn't control the Bronco anymore."

Kelly Buckner, '00, who attended Great America, said it was a day she'd never forget.

"It was a great day overall, till the drive home. We couldn't even make it all the way to Merrillville."

Buckner and her group stopped off and stayed with family of her boyfriend Matt Pavlovich, '97. Buckner and her group remained there until 11:45 that night.

Some students got home even later. This was because a little before 7:00 that night, Great America put its patrons in shelters, because a tornado was spotted in the parking lot.

Luckily, the day ended with no unfortunate incidents with any MHS students.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



TENNESSEE

Band scored at Liberty Bowl

In December, members of the Marching Band, Color Guard and Pom-Pon squad traveled to Memphis, Tennessee for the experience of a lifetime.

The group headed out the day after Christmas in order to arrive on time for the Liberty Bowl Parade down the famous Beale Street. Despite the wind and rain, the Band of Pirates performed at their best.

"When we saw all of the people and TV cameras, the weather became the last thing on our minds," said Annette Harness, '97.

The next big thrill came when they got to perform with other bands throughout the country in the halftime show for the Liberty Bowl Game.

"It was so great to be a part of something that big," exclaimed Ryan Jesuit, '00.

The group also got to attend a dinner/dance party at which awards were given out for performances in the parade. The Band of Pirates received awards for having the best music, general effect, visual, auxiliary, and percussion. The band was more than excited to receive all of the awards.

"I remember having this incredible feeling of pride as the man handed us our five trophies," said Shannon Scott, '97.

When all of the hard work was done, the band got to visit Graceland, which was the favorite part of the trip for most of the members. It was the perfect way to end a perfect week.



DRUMMER BOY ■

Joe Steeb played a tune he liked to call "Cortizone 5" at senior night. In honor of Director Mary Clay's love for cows, drumline member Mike Coughlin marched the halftime show dressed as one.



■ Krissy Malast

ON THE MARCH

Band had its most sucessful year yet



'SING, SING, SING'

*Band director
Mary Clay and
junior drum
major Juan
Anaya played
on at Basketball
Homecoming.*

Starting in June and ending in May for their final concert, the band had one of the longest and most fun seasons of any group.

The Band of Pirates, which also included the color guard and pom squad, started out the year by marching down Broadway with their chins high in the Fourth of July Parade.

Then came camp, where 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. practices were used to perfect marching style, music, field drills, and the pom and flag routines. The Band of Pirates marched their

half time shows with pride and style. They also performed at Purdue Band Day, which provided lots of unforgettable memories.

"It was my first time marching there. It was THE BEST experience I had from my four years in band," raved James Upshaw, '97.

In October, they were off to contest. It was the Marching Band's first year at ISSMA contest, and they blew the judges away, receiving a First Division Rating.

Jazz Impact also had a very successful year. After tryouts, the members of the jazz band began practicing for the ISSMA contest. Entered in Group II, they brought home a Superior rating.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands performed at concerts and ISSMA contests. The Concert Band received an overall Superior rating. The Symphonic Band earned their highest marks in recent years, receiving a Superior rating from all three judges.

Five ensembles and ten soloists qualified for the state Solo and Ensemble contest with Rafael Ramirez earning a perfect score for his alto sax solo.

The Pep Band performed at all home boys basketball games, and a few girls basketball games. They kept the spirit alive with their lively tunes, and proved to be one of the most exciting aspects of basketball games.

Joe Steeb '97, summed up the year. "This year's band set a high standard for the year's to come."

■ Krissy Malast

ROUND & ROUND

Seen any bright colored flags being twirled lately? This year the Colorguard twirled a total of four different flags differing in size, color, and design.

The theme for the half time show was "South of the Border."

Not only were there brand new members who didn't even know how to march, but there was also a brand new person in charge. Since Michelle King went on maternity leave and later decided she wasn't coming back to the Guard, the group had to have a new leader.

That new sponsor turned out to be 1996 graduate Marie Kaminsky.

Six seniors also worked with Kaminsky to get the new flag members up to par by helping to teach the routines and lending tips.

The Colorguard started practicing the week before school got out and didn't stop until after the Fourth of July Parade.

After that the members took a summer break. They started back up two weeks before school started for band camp.

In band camp the guard members practiced from 8 a.m. until noon, they took an hour break, and then they practiced again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This went on five days a week with the weekend splitting the days up.

Then they had one day to recuperate and school started. With school in full swing the group started practicing from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday until football season ended.

All of the girls put a lot of work into the routines. They not only performed for the crowds every Friday night at home football games, but the Colorguard also went with the band to their first ever marching band contest.

The group also traveled to Tennessee with the band to perform at the Liberty Bowl game over Christmas break.

In the spring the emphasis switched to tryouts. The Colorguard also went to Pierce Middle School to try and get the middle school students interested in trying out.

■ **Cathy Snelson**

**Guard
twirls its
flags
'South of
the Border'**



**STEP IN
TIME ■**
Colorguard members have to keep in step, keep the line straight, stop in the right spot, and stay together as they perform for the crowd at halftime.





Twirling

Guard steps out at Liberty Bowl game



This past winter the Colorguard along with the Marching Band and Pom-poms traveled to Tennessee to perform at the Liberty Bowl.

They left at 1:30 a.m. the day after Christmas. When they got there it was time for the parade. During the parade it was dark, cold, and windy. After the parade the group finally got to sign in at their hotel.

The next day the Colorguard learned their routine for the half-time show and also got to perform for all the people watching the Liberty Bowl.

The girls not only had to learn how to twirl with a 10 foot flag pole, but the material on the flag had to be about the same size.

After the Liberty Bowl the whole group was off to a rodeo. Then the next day everyone invaded the shopping mall before getting ready for the dance and awards ceremony.

Merrillville practically swept every category in which they were entered, including taking Best Auxiliary Group (Colorguard and Pom-poms).

On the last day of our trip we toured Graceland, Elvis Presley's home. Then we stopped at the Civil Rights Museum which was attached to the exact place where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. It gave us a lot to think about the people in those times. Then it was back home.

■ **Cathy Snelson**

SHOWTIME

■ *A member of the Colorguard marches on to the field for the halftime show. The Guard appears with the Marching Band and Pom-poms at each home game.*

TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

"Let's go MHS!" shouted Latoi Hughes, captain '97. The co-ed cheerleading team traveled to St. Mary's Notre Dame for camp. They spent one week there and received the cheer award.

This award showed that our cheerleading squad had the best cheering ability. MHS also attended another competition held at Valparaiso University.

The cheerleaders were involved in many different divisions, as a team and individually. The whole squad came in second place in the co-ed division.

Kim Pero, '97 placed first in the individual division.

Christy Oh, '97 and Randy Collins, '97 entered in the partners division and won first place.

This team of talented students work very hard together. Practices took place on Wednesday and optional practices on Monday's and Thursday's.

A few times before practice the team ordered pizza or had dinner at Olive Garden. "We worked well together this year. We work as a team instead of as individuals," said Hughes.

Many different ideas were used to raise money for new uniforms, megaphones, and poms including selling patron ads and butter braids were sold.

New freshman coach, Afrodite Mitrakis commented, "I think it was a good season. The girls worked really hard and well together."

The students said that the varsity squad, as well as the Junior Varsity and freshmen squads, motivated them to participate to at the games whether the game.

Some students even felt that cheerleaders should attend and cheer at other sporting events such as volleyball, baseball, and track to "cheer" up the crowd.

Many awards were received at camp



LET ME DOWN ■

The cheerleading squad performs during timeouts doing stunts and dance routines.

WATCHING ■

Adam Rosaves watches in hope of another win for the mighty, mighty Pirates.





Starting Out

JV cheerleaders plan for camp and July 4th



The Junior Varsity, varsity and freshmen cheerleading squads worked together.

HEY! ■ Amber Braden and Kim Pero try to CHEER up the crowd during a Friday night game in the gym.

STAND AT ATTENTION ■ The Junior Varsity cheerleaders stood on the field at attention during the national anthem.

The junior varsity cheerleading squad consisted of Laura Luevano, Rene Reyes, Christin Cirrincione, Ann Wojtowicz, Lori Wotell, Marisa Van Volkenburgh, Katie Taylor, Jenny Pedroza, and Kira Schreub worked closely with the varsity squad.

Beth Given was the junior varsity and varsity coach. She basically wanted both squads to participate in the same activities. This type of planning and organizing between the two teams formed a great relationship between the girls.

Different fund raisers were held by the junior varsity squad. They all took orders for butter braids and then delivered them to their buyers.

The junior varsity squad was going to participate in many different activities this summer. These same activities were repeated year after year by all of the freshmen squads.

The freshmen squad was going to participate in this year's Fourth of July parade. In the past few years, the cheerleaders usually rode on a firetruck and threw candy.

The new freshmen coach, Afrodite Mitrakis, reported that the girls were going to cheerleading camp this August. This year it was held at Valparaiso University.

MHS GAINS NEW CLUB

Devoted fans turn from ordinary to extraordinary

Just ten seconds were left in the fourth quarter. The coach had called a time out. If the final shot was made, the Pirates won the season, but if it was missed Merrillville would be put to shame. The shooter, nervous and doubtful, listened to the coach for his instructions.

Just when the shooter felt like it would be hopeless the Super Fans cheered him on. Reminding him that he could do it. The timeout was over. The team knew what to do. The shooter got to the net and shot. The ball went around and around and just as the buzzer sounded, it fell through the hoop. The Pirates were victorious once more thanks to the help of the famous Super Fans.

The Super Fans began by a group decision by everyone who went to the games. The group made it an official club because they wanted people to join them and make the games more exciting. The Super Fans' goals were to be the best, the craziest, and the most dedicated fans in the state of Indiana.

Over all they just wanted to have fun. They not only went to the football games and basketball games; they supported all sports. "My excitement in cheering made me perfect for being a Super Fan," said Donny Hollandsworth '97 a super fan for three years.

The most memorable memories that Super Fan Hollandsworth has are the tailgate parties before a couple of football games, and the time he got kicked out of a basketball game, and in support of him, the rest of the Super Fans all left. He says that the craziest thing anyone ever did at a game was to take off their shirts and show off for all of the fans and players.

The key Super Fans are John Foster, Justin Kissinger, Justin Savich, Jeremy Joselyn, Joe Moore, TJ Stochel, Eric Vargas, John Harms, Michael Thiros, Marc Bruner, and Donny Hollandsworth, all '97.

They were all proud of what they have done for MHS because they have shown the more school spirit than any other fans of Merrillville have before. "The best part of being a Super Fan is getting to know all of the other crazy fans." Hollandsworth concluded.

■ **Cathy Snelson**

SCHOOL SPIRIT ■
Super fans hyperactively cheered for the Merrillville Pirates at a basketball game.

SUPER READING ■
While the other teams players were being announced the Super Fans kicked back and read the newspaper.



CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



TAKING A BOW ■
Drama club members take a curtain call at the end of a performance of "Dracula." The club sponsors a fall play and a spring musical annually.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Academic Decathlon Team Row 1: Ekoma Igboegwu, Sharon Segvich, Rachel Bright, Anarachi Igboegwu Row 2: Pam Schilling, Gretchen Peters, Dee Edgcomb. Row 3: Jennifer Beatty, Angela Lamb.



Business Professionals of America Row 1: Amy Sut, Natalia Masic, Michelle McAdoo, Katie Bundett, Celeste Martinez. Row 2: Judy LeDuc, Jennifer Prgimola, Destinee Gallardo, Irene Makarunas. Row 3: Angela Geruska, Cheryl Frost, Ryan Remennik, Meilia Montgomery, Thizza Rodriguez.



Athletic Trainers Row 1: Jennifer Roames, Jill Theobald, Kathy Paulberg, Jamie Simpson. Row 2: Andi Franz, Bret Romeo, Ruby Long.



Concert Band Group 1 Row 1: Bill Connelly, Tony Petrovski, Kevin Mabon, Carrie Nash, Denise Prince, Halalukka Joyner, Derek Crawford, Tony Transfiguration. Row 2: Jimmi Jones, Aaron Kesler, Joey Crosby, Justin Porter, Ed Villareal, Lisa Scheffer, Randy Lockett, Kellie Gasperson. Row 3: Ryan Jeziur, Jim Bergstrom, Ryan Petry, Derek Floyd, Jeremy Rinker, Mike Lamb, Shannon Grinner, Tina Michael, James Lutinen. Row 4: Ryan Bobrowsky, Jason Morris, Mike Washington, Brandon Williams, Brad Kamano, Demetrius Morgan, Dave Robbins, Larry Jorgenson, Duncish Samuel.



Concert Band Group 2 Row 1: Valerie Plummer, Katie Pumica, Melissa Mangos, Enika Lekstrom, Mary Souzerha, Jessica Main, Carrie Grin. Row 2: Katie Smith, Beth Hirsky, Erin McGee, Sarah Juris, Chasity Mason, Shameka Ottman, Mahogany Mead. Row 3: Michelle Lindahl, Andi Franz, Kim Drobac, Abby Kochek, Kira Kolcichefski, Brenda Riley. Row 4: Jim Roanics, Justin Gilmore, Jaclyn Visune, Leslie Newell, Zach Cook, Daniel Vadas, Sean Brown, Jerome Williamson.



Environmental Club Row 1: Jennifer Street, Kelly Meeks, Stacy Shudick. Row 2: Trisha Swankie, Susan Szot. Row 3: Nichole Shultz, Jeff Yelton, Andrea Clinkenbeard.



Creative Writing Club Row 1: Joyce Herrera, Jennifer Fuller, Kristina Berta. Row 2: Jenna Purevich.



FEA Row 1: Latoi Hughes, Kira Scheub, Katie Shapkaroff, Amber Braden, Kathy Hodgetts. Row 2: Nichole Shultz, Karla Shell, Sara Taylor, Kelly Meeks. Row 3: Jennifer Johnson, John Foster, Christy Oh, Jenna Purevich, Kristin McMurry.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



FHA Row 1: Karianne Jelenik, Danielle Sisler, Nikki Blondeel. Row 2: Angela Pavlish, Heather Egner, Sherrie Stupic, Afrodite Mitrakis.



Flag Corps Row 1: Elisa Bacz, Cathy Nelson, Valerie Plummer. Row 2: Mary Sacchetti, Laurie Owens. Row 3: Stacy Shadick, Lynn Duplaga, Shannon Scott.



FHA Bronze Award Winners Row 1: Danielle Sisler, Sherrie Stupic.



French Club Row 1: Megan Kriko, Doris Dohrich, Catherine Gallimore, Deanna Tracy, Sharon Segovich. Row 2: Bridget Petrelis, Jennifer Trapane, Melissa Skatsky, LaTonia Adams, Tina Spiro, Brandy Dravet. Row 3: Bill Santelik, Frank Halcarz, Becky Lambert, Kelly Meeks.



German Club Row 1: Randy Collins, Janell Deen, Lynn Duplaga. Row 2: Nichole Shultz, April Connell, Keri Willifson, Ray Hamilton. Row 3: Danny Galic, Mike Robbins, David Duchscher.



L.M.A.G.E. (In Music All Girls Evolve) Row 1: Karen Kerr, Destine Roman, India Dogno, Dallas Prati, Lynn Blonder, Marla Lopez, Deanna Perez, Jennifer Hayes, Tanisha Stegall. Row 2: Cynthia Karabestos, Porches Cobb, Camille Powell, Heather Morgan, Brandi Lewis, Lorrie Stock, Jennifer Rovtan, Maricela Garcia, Christina Gutierrez, Amy Bakalar. Row 3: Keynn Pearson, Meagan Jackson, Lindsey Krumrie, Fawn Clark, Eva Echols, Jorie Spinks, Mia Rausel, Jennifer Abrego, Felicia Taylor, Stephanie Palmeter. Row 4: Lisa Bowen, Angie Krumrie, Jennifer Trapane, Renier Bryant, Kristina Sorck, Beth Muller, Sarah Peters, Vanessa Bond, Kelleye Stephens, Nadiah Chisom, Danah Frazier, Bunka Henderson, Kadace Stanford.



HERO Row 1: Twanna Allen, Jessica Anderson, Jamie Duhis, Christina Gangi. Row 2: Erica Gallardo, Maricela Garcia, Beatrice Johnson, Myeshia Davis. Row 3: Ruska Vraniškoski, Maureen Skura, Christina McCana. Row 4: Nicoie Cole, Bernetta Jackson, Risheeda Maxwell.



Jazz Band Row 1: Kym Veal, Cortney Lamprecht, April Connell, Shannon Scott, Rose Castillo. Row 2: Rafael Ramirez, Amanda Moloney, Kristina Greene, Jason Marcus, Tony Transfiguration. Row 3: Matt Egner, Juan Anaya, Judy Cyphert, Jeff Smith, LaTonzia Adams, Dave Huber. Row 4: Bret Romeo, Jim Bergstrom, Joe Stech, Chris Camisa, Adam Hazlett, Nick Gonzalez.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Morning Announcement Readers Row 1: LaWanda Borem, Carolina Procter, Deanna Goodman. Row 2: Dorn Denco, David Downs, Jeff Thames, Nick Gonzalez. Row 3: Sam Carter.



National Honor Society Juniors Row 1: Pam Niksch, Elisa Baez, Raine Brodner, Rebecca Bosch, Maria Spanos, Daniela Prentiss. Row 2: Jamie Ulbrecht, Erin McElroy, Kelly Kellman, Linda Gill, Nicole Rakich, Ann Martin, Monika Doris Dobrich, Sharon Estes, Rose Mai Johnston, Deloris Head, Snezana Obetkovski, Deanna Semovski, Ryan Germick, Kim Clark, Stef Kavou, Mike Igarta. Row 4: Nick Jovanovic, Jacob Tellado, Danny Galic, Jake Gross, John Roads.



Newspaper Row 1: Jason Franzen, Helen Andreatus, Gina Bartolomeo, Cathy Snelson, Katy Cantrell, Marygrace Foster. Row 2: Melissa Pagel. Row 3: Mike Rathbun, Nick Farabough, Jean Stanford, Snezana Obetkovski, Deanna Semovski, Nicole Moor. Row 4: Don DeLong, Jay Richardson, James Haley, Chris Sikich, Mike Nalborczyk, Amanda Buda. Not Pictured: Chris Eastlee, Jamie Young



National Honor Society Seniors Row 1: Kim Pero, Michelle Perez, Aleka Linneanueldas, Janel Deem, Michelle Hogan. Row 2: Rachel Bright, Christy Oh, Barb Hosigland, Sonja Damjanoski, Cathy Gallimore, Sharon Sevich. Row 3: Sharon Estes, Nick Gonzalez, Eugene Vito, William Samelik, Heather Lohse, Nichole Shultz. Row 4: Brian Haussmann, John Harms, Joe Moors, Frank Hakarz.



Orchestra Row 1: Maria Toledo, Stephanie Badylak, Shivani Tejuja, Julie Bane, Deanna Price. Row 2: Terra Pearson, Chris Miller, April Ruiz, Demetra Stath, Jeanine Visuar, Danna Grumbus. Row 3: Chris Miller, Jason Sims, Michael Flurka, John Miller, Alfred Johnson. Row 4: Tony Ortiz, David Huber, Joe Konetzl, Jon McCarty, Walter Riddle.



Quill and Scroll Row 1: Katy Cantrell, Lisa Fesko, Cathy Snelson, Melissa Wilson, Megan Shelton. Row 2: Angela Pavlish, LaTonzia Adams, Rebekah Jusko, Krisy Malasi, Kim Clark, Jean Stanford. Row 3: Michelle Westerfield, Marygrace Forster, Nicole Moor, Amanda Buda, Kathi Gaines. Row 4: Chris Sikich, Jason Franzen, Snezana Obertkovi, Deannna Semovski, Marc Bruner, Stephen Salcedo.



Quest Row 1: Joyce Herrera, Ebony Jones. Row 2: Shannon Cagle, Dana Levitt. Row 3: Jenna Purevich, Jerry Kasarda, Shameka Ottman.



Quiz Bowl Row 1: Sharon Segrich, Mark O'Brien, Angie Lamb. Row 2: Jim Edgcomb, Frank Halcar.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



S.A.D.D. Row 1: Aleka Emmanoilidis, Lisa Giboux, Jennifer Street, Sarah Magurany, Sara, Desiree Roman. Row 2: Jennifer Fuller, Eugene Vivo, Latoy Hughes, Pam Nilsch, Jamie Ulrich, Brandy McCov. Row 3: Kristina Bernt, Kari Forster, Christy Oh, Katie McMullin, Jenny Johnson, Aimee Lee. Row 4: Brandon Dzunda, Joe Moore, Brad Balcerak.



Spanish Club Row 1: Nicole Rakich, Kelly Keilman. Row 2: Mike Mytyk...



Show Choir Row 1: Rebecca Greenberg, Eugene Vivo, Elaine Castro, Jay Cermak, Elizabeth Brown, Jason Hallows, Elisabeth Black, Ronald Derga, Cara Colon, Zak Frink, Diana Hammer, Donnie Hollandsworth. Row 2: Kim Pero, Adrian Ramirez, Mandy Sopko, Ian Rausei, Tia Kroosvick, Ryan Bailey, Erin Price, Kristin Stefaniewicz, Paul Culbertson, Hector Mendez. Row 3: Stephanie Hogan, Eric Greene, Emily Barnett, Tom Crane, Kristen Rendina, Curtis Rund, Barb Hoagland, Andy Byrom. Row 4: Kacie Zweg, Joe Moore, Jenny Kusik, Desma Price, David Crain, Lori Megyesi, Josh Christoff.



Speech and Debate Row 1: Katy Cantrell, Michelle Perez, Jeff Van Volkenburg, Lisa Farve, Tabitha Bolden. Row 2: Rachel Bright, Brian Haussmann, Al Barber, LaLakesha Holmes, Beverly Seaver, Viveca Carter. Row 3: Ryan Germick, Sam Carter, Mike Mytyk, Chris Camisa, Bob Carroll.



Spell Bowl Team Row 1: Lisa Fesko, Evelyn Steiner. Row 2: Sarah Peters, Lisa Farver, Gretchen Peters. Row 3: Nick Gonzalez, Snezana Obetkovski.



Student Government Officers Row 1: Keri Willison, Kari Forster, Lisa Bowen, Rebecca Greenberg. Row 2: Jennifer Johnson, Brad Balcerak.



Student Government Row 1: Keri Willison, Rebecca Greenberg, Eugene Vivo. Row 2: Maria Mazzoni, Anna Jaworski, Lisa Brown, Latoi Hughes, Kathi Gomes, Kari Forster, Rosellen Kotek. Row 3: Nicole Moor, Jamie Ulbrich, Deanna Schmitz, Nancy Rabish, Courtney Parsons, Snezana Obetkovski, Jennifer Johnson, Jeremy McClain. Row 4: Frank Halczar, John Miller, Matt Pavlovich, Christy Oh, Joe Moore, Britton Hoffman, Mike Coughlin, Nick Gonzalez.



Super Bowl Team Row 1: Sharon Segovich, Lisa Fesko, Hiroko Soneda, Evelyn Steiner. Row 2: Kristina Berta, Sarah Peters, Gretchen Peters, Ananya Moloney, Pam Schilling. Row 3: Jamie Ulbrich, Rachel Bright, Erin Mulroy, Ryan Germick. Row 4: Mark O'Brien, Mike Vaughn, Nick Gonzalez.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Symphonic Band Group 1 Row 1: Dave Orgun, Paul Zofodz, Courtney Lampert, Joshua Li-Omer, Anthony Azevez, Adrike Arroyo, Robert Wojcik. Row 2: Justin Atwood, Jason Peaman, Tracy Klemenski, Amanda Molsev, Jim Bergstrom, Kristina Greene, Sherrie Stupic, Jason Marcus. Row 3: Matt Egner, Juan Arevalo, Chris Charlestan, Shawn Pesciuk, Bob Verbiak, Jeff Smith, Craig Kovacs. Row 4: Chris Camisa, Nick Gonzalez, Mike Glorioso, Alex Malinowich, Joe Steeb, Brian Kesler, Jayson Culp, Adam Hazlett.



Symphonic Band Group 3 Row 1: Rose Castillo, Jill Theodore, Kathy Padberg, Karin Bartochowska, Kate O'Sullivan, Virginia Boulla, Rashedra Maxwell. Row 2: Ursula Johnson, Jackie Dieries, Leslie Mackowiak, Melissa Wilson, Melissa Sabi, Maria Spanos, Kym Veal. Row 3: Monique Harbin, Stephanie Bulanda, Betsey Parrish, Lori Wostell, Jennifer Roames, Chrissy Long. Row 4: Jennifer Lepley, Bret Romeo, Leslie Malarick, Chay Irwin, Lisa Renchett.



Symphonic Band Group 2 Row 1: Lisa Farcer, Melissa Powers, Ashley Dobis, De Anna Sivonk, Emily Reilly, Cathy Snelson, Heather Luedtke, Mary Johnson. Row 2: Debra Drobac, Taria Selmon, Lisa Fesko, Jamie Ulrich, April Connely, Heather Egner, David Tokarski. Row 3: La'Lakesha Holmes, Kim Swierts, Stacey Shudick, Shannon Scott, Latina Hubbard, Nova Carden, Jon Rybicki, Jamie Penilla. Row 4: Keith White, Sara Stupic, Jody Cyphert, Stephanie Valse, Jon Bassett, Ryan Vawter.



Velveteens Row 1: Chrissy Stewart, Jennifer Mola, Deanna Rivera, Tonjanika Miller, Sandi, Heather Karczewski. Row 2: Kathi Gaines, Tina Karamacoska, Brandi Smith, Diana Dipietro, Margaret French. Row 3: Angie Miller, Jennifer Beatty, Alicia Shingler, Doris Dobrich, Sarah Milisavjevich, Amanda McConnell, Elena Bielawski. Row 4: Keri Jo Majkowski, Michelle Schreiner, Linda Lux, Christima Towry.



VocalTeens Row 1: Elaine Castro, Jay Cermak, Elisabeth Black, Eugene Vlivo Row 2: Amanda Sojka, Tom Crane, Deanna Price, Curtis Rund, Cara Colon, Danny Spalaras. Row 3: Kim Pern, Joe Moore, Barbara Hognland, Andy Byrom.



Yearbook Row 1: Jodi Yambrisak, Deanna Gonzalez, Cathy Snelson, Megan Shelton. Row 2: Natalie Nimon, Nikki Blonderel, Erin McDermott. Row 3: Don DeLong, Stacey Brown, Krissy Malast, Jean Stanford. Row 4: Nick Farabaugh, Chris Sikich, Jason Blankinship. Not pictured: Chris Eastlee, Stephanie Nicolini.



WMHS Productions Row 1: Shivani Tejuja, Stephanie Badylak, Megan Shelton, Kristina Berta. Row 2: Angela Pavish, Stacey Shudick, Lauren Fralinger, Kathi Gaines. Row 3: Ed Villarreal, Geoff Gionch, Ryan Germick, Michelle Westerfield.



STEPPING OUT ■

A student dances with her father at Mommy/Daddy Date Night, a dance sponsored annually by FHA. The dance gives students a chance to get to know their parent in a different light.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK

PAYING THEIR WAY ■

The academic teams have a continuous fundraiser every year. They pay their entrance fees by selling balloons to the student body. The balloons are sold through the bookstore at lunch and are delivered sixth period.



THE BAND PLAYED ON ■

One of many service projects the Key Club is responsible for is the Senior Citizen's Prom which is held in the school cafeteria. Smiles are infectious as the King and the Queen look on.

HOLDING HANDS ■

The newly revitalized S.A.D.D. club sponsored "Hands Around Merrillville" as a part of the annual Red Ribbon Week push against drinking and drugs. The entire student body held hands around the school building.



FAMILY AFFAIR

Students spent quality time with their parents



TEARING UP THE FLOOR ■

Tracy Kleminski and her father got down at Mommy-Daddy Date Night. The annual dance is sponsored by HERO and FHA...

'HEY MACERENA' ■

Students and parents joined in the line dance. The dance extremely popular during the summer before the school year started.



Ever been to a dance where you could get grounded if you ditched your date?

Mommy-Daddy Date Night took place May 2, in the Cafeteria. Sponsored by Future Homemakers of America and HERO, it was a fun night of bonding and spending time with Mom and Dad.

Mommy-Daddy Date Night was just like all the other dances, except students took parents as dates and not their peers. Many of the students felt this took a lot of pressure off the traditional dance scene because they didn't have to impress anyone. Though there was not a very large turnout, all who attended appeared to be having a good time.

"I thought it was fun," said Carolina Procter '97, who took her father Jim. "I spent quality time with my dad, and had a chance to unwind before Prom. I doubled with one of my friends and her dad, so our dad's would have friends there too."

Even the parents enjoyed it.

"It was the first Mommy-Daddy Date Night I'd ever participated in. I had a good time. I got a chance to talk to some of my friends who's kids are students at Merrillville. I thought it was a good one," remarked Conrad Brown, who attended with his daughter.

The evening was best summed up by Brad Balcerak, '97.

"Having gone to Mommy-Daddy Date Night for the past three years, I can honestly say that it is a real enjoyable time. When else can you go to a dance and get out on the dance floor and not have to worry about looking 'cool' in front of your date. After all, it's your mom, or dad. She loves you no matter how you dance. Besides it can be a real memorable time. I figure it's the least I can do for my wonderful mother. It makes me realize how important my mother is to me, and gives me a chance to tell her that."

All in all, everyone who attended Mommy Daddy Date night found it to be an enjoyable, memorable evening.

■ Stacey Brown

NEW TUNES

Herald the formation of a new symphonic group.



This year saw the beginning of a new symphonic group, combining members from both the band and the orchestra.

This new assembly opened many doors for the music department in the performance arena and gave music students a chance to try their hand at many different types and styles of music.

This new style should have a huge impact on the orchestra in the years to come. The new sounds that they are producing gave a wide range of material for the group to work with.

Any wanderer of the halls who happened to be in the vicinity of the orchestra room during fourth hour would have heard an interesting sound. The intermingling of the deep bass of the band and the high pitched strings of the orchestra.

This sound should encourage many concert go-ers to attend the symphonies.

The year was a very successful one for the members of the Merrillville High School Orchestra.

With concerts ranging from Christmas to Baccalaureate, they gave us the opportunity to hear a much more cultured and unique form of art than many are used to.

Through their hardwork and dedication they give to the staff and students a very memorable gift: the Gift of Music.

■ Chris Eastlee

GETTING THE TIMING RIGHT

■ The violin section waits to come in at the right measure during a fourth period practice session.



GOOD VIBRATIONS

Musicians show their dedication to class

Sometimes, during that mid-class rush to find a clean bathroom, wandering students found themselves smack-dab in the middle of the vibrating movements of the classical ensemble. No, the janitors didn't leave their radios on the wrong channel, this was as live as it gets.

The Merrillville High School Orchestra had been filling the halls of MHS with the rich tones of orchestral classics for years.

Their music could be heard at fourth hour almost everyday, their practices becoming performances, and the empty halls of MHS their stage.

The hard work and dedication it took to "make it" in the orchestra was astounding. Concert string instruments were among the most difficult to learn and by far the hardest to master.

This was what made the orchestra so demanding, so taxing on its members; and it was because of this that the orchestra was made up of only the most dedicated musicians.

Only those with the skill and knowledge to perform above the standard had the drive to

stick with it. It was because of this labor that went into the music that the listener could get so much out.

This year the orchestra out did themselves. With more than a dozen performances, the orchestra certainly kept itself busy.

Without the guidance of their instructor, Barbara Timmerman, for a portion of the year because of her maternity leave, the students had difficulty juggling the styles of different directors.

This adversity in teaching styles led them to depend more on themselves as guides, to better use each other for direction, which brought them much closer as group.

"It was hard in the beginning," commented one orchestra member, "but it all worked out in the end."

■ Chris Eastlee

IT TAKES PRACTICE ■

Cellists concentrate hard on music for the upcoming concert. Three members of the orchestra were able to travel to Italy over the summer with the Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra.



SINGIN' & SWINGIN'

Have you ever heard angels sing?

If you ever walked toward the choir room, you might have heard bits and pieces of them in their full glory.

The choir was directed and taught by Roger Emig. "Some of the choir members have been students of mine for six years. When they leave, it will seem as if my sons and daughters are going away to school. Our choir is family," explained Emig.

The choir had been involved in many activities during the year. One of the activities that went on was a Benefit Concert. The choir raised \$8,000 dollars to help support the choir students' expenses for their annual trip.

Several of the choirs performed at the concert. The VocalTeens, which was a contemporary jazz and dance group performed. Illusion, which was a show choir that did popular medleys featuring mixed couples sang different songs. The Velveteens, which was an all-girls show choir also did popular medleys combined with choreography by Mr. Spanopoulos, excited the crowd. The Concert Choir sang various songs.

Traveling to San Antonio, Texas was the highlight of the year for all choir students. Sixty-three adults and students traveled together. There were several things that the students did to occupy themselves. One thing was shopping all day with Dr. Mabry at the University of Texas. They also went to a performance at the Anneson Theater by the waterfront that goes through the city. The students were lucky enough to be able to attend a Spurs/Piston basketball game where they sang at half time.

Emig reported, "This year has some of the finest music students I've ever had..". He was also looking forward to next year's classes.

**The choir
was all
over the
states**



SHOWTIME!

■ Jessica Anderson sings her solo at the Christmas Concert.



■ Natalie Nimon



SPRINGTIME

*The Spring Concert
was a success.*



The choir ranged far afield from their usual format for this year's Spring Concert. They

did a more upbeat techno performance intermingled with the usual "think happy thoughts" format.

They started it all off with "Hakuna Matata." The choir people all wore bright colored t-shirts and looked miserable as they performed a cute Disney song in their later years as high school students.

The opening segment did include some very flashy dancing by a group of the talented singers.

Then they moved on to a rendition of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Donny Hollandsworth, '97, played the hunchback and Diana Hammer, '98, played Ezmerelda.

No other people could have been as good in these parts. Hollandsworth and Hammer became the Hunchback and Ezmerelda.

The concert also featured solo's by Mandy Sopko and Cara Colon, both '97.

Curtis Rund, '98, performed with his guitar in the highlight of the concert. He received a huge ovation from the crowd.

This was the last concert performed by this choir. Director Roger Emig came out on stage at the end and thanked the seniors for four years of inspiring singing. He pointed out that this was his first concert to include flashy dancing and what he called "techno."

■ Chris Sikich

FOUR AMIGOS ■

This talented quartet consisted of Jay Cernak, Tom Crane, Joe Moore, and Eugene Vivo.

ACADEMICS

Students studying for competition

Practice, meets, and thrill of competition. No, it's not a track meet. It's the academic teams.

For the Academic Decathlon team, key members such as Ekeoma Igboegwu, Amarachi Igboegwu, Angie Lamb, and Lori Megyesi, all '97, helped lead the Pirates to a successful season. The team finished fourth in the region, which qualified them for the state meet. At state, the team placed seventh overall, and second among large schools. Amarachi Igboegwu summed up the season saying, "I felt it was a very good year. We worked together and came out with a fourth ranking in the state which took a lot of studying and hard work, and we also improved from last year."

The Academic Super Bowl also had a successful season. Key members were Johnny Miller, Rachel Bright, Joe Moore, Sharon Segovich, and Nick Gonzalez, all '97. Accomplishments for the team consisted of all but two teams getting first or second at area. Miller, who specialized in Science and English, commented on the season. "The topic was difficult being 'Asia' because not many of us had much background in the information."

All in all, the outlook for next year's academic teams looked promising, although, it will be a "rebuilding year" for the teams. But with the same hard work and dedication the teams put forth this year, they should be strong.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



TAKING A STAND ■

Aaron Steele gives his speech at the MHS Invitational held at Harrison Middle School this year. The event had the largest turnout in the history of the Speech Team.

GETTING READY ■

Chris Camisa practiced for his speech before hand. Team members spend hours researching and preparing for meets.



TALKING UP A WIN

Debaters head to Nationals to cap the year



SPEAKING UP ■

Katy Cantrell competes after hours of practice.

TIME OUT ■

■ Aaron Steele and Katy Cantrell take a few minutes to relax between rounds of the MHS Invitational.



Speech and Debate may not be football, but it's one of the toughest and most competitive teams you've never heard of.

Once again, the Speech and Debate team had a successful season. Although the Pirates had a small team, the members were experienced and exceptionally talented. Like the past years, the Speech and Debate team competed on the local, state, and national levels.

Regional highlights included everyone on the team placing. At the state level, Al Barber and Sam Carter, both '97, placed fourth. MHS was represented at the national level by Brian Hausmann, Michele Perez, and Jeff Van Volkenburgh, all '97. Other key contributors to the team were Ryan Germick, '98, Lisa Farver, '99, Aaron Steele, '98, Chris Canissa, '97, and Rachel Bright, '97.

Bright felt the season was "good, but it was a small and irregular group. A lot us were involved in other activities and perhaps did not have the dedication we should have. Still, we did well with what we had."

Hausmann, a key debate team member, had a very memorable season.

"The trip to Baltimore to compete at the National CFL Tournament was the event that highlighted my season. It was great, especially because three of us got to go."

Perez, another key member of the debate team, also highlighted her senior year by qualifying for nationals.

"The highlight of the season was when I qualified for nationals in Congress. It was the last event announced after the House and Senate qualifiers. Donna Rice from LaPorte and I were the two qualifiers, and we also got to be the best of friends!"

Although the Pirates graduated a half or so dozen seniors and lose a coach, the outlook for next year still looks bright. Perez's final thoughts were, "Next year look for Lisa Farver to give a blockbuster year and Ryan Germick to dominate in humorous interpretation."

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

KEY TO SUCCESS

People who got along with others, worked well together and helped each other, met the qualifications for Key Club.

This past year, the Key Club was involved with many activities, which included fingerprinting children for identification and the food drive known as "Trick or Treat for Others to Eat."

They also helped the senior citizens, decorated Prom '97, helped at nursing homes, and competed at International Convention and the State Convention. Some members were Natural Helpers, threw baby showers for needy infants, and made floats for Christmas and the 4th of July parades. They also set up Lock-ins, helped with Camp Riley, had bake sales, and had a Teacher Appreciation Week. At Christmas these busy students rang bells for the Salvation Army. Many also helped cleaned up the school.

This year the Key Club had only two seniors compared to last year's seventeen. "However, now students are active members rather than simply paying dues," commented club sponsor Michelle Sulich.

The Club won first place for Key Club Achievement and competed for the International Title at Convention. They also placed third in State for Key Club of the Year out of 92 clubs total. The club moved up from ninth place to third place in the state and also first in single service and one hundred percent in dues. These were just some of their achievements.

Next year's goals were to raise their membership, do different projects, become more known to the public and have more committees.

■ Nick Farabaugh

Key Club helps the community



APPRENTICE JANITORS

■ Members of Key Club cleaned up the outside of MHS as one of their many community service projects.



JOIN IN

*The MHS Key Club
welcomes anyone*



The Key Club was very active in the school and in the community

as well. The club went to nursing homes every month and did little activities with the residents like coloring Easter eggs, singing Christmas carols, and playing bingo. They also participated in fingerprinting little kids in case the kids were kidnapped or got lost.

There were about 60 members with about 25 to 30 active members. The ratio of girls to guys was every six girls to one guy. They hoped more guys would join. This was a good way to meet people and become close friends.

FROM THE HEART

■*Christina Vargo, Gretchen Peters, Tiffany Jenkins, and Meagan Jackson, taught elementary school kids Handicap Awareness.*

Next year the Key Club hoped to gain more members and become better known within the school and community. They hoped to start new projects like Head Start and Children's Advocacy Center. These are projects to help abused kids and make them happy. The Key Clubs year started around the first of May and usually ended around the end of April. Club sponsor Michelle Sulich said, "If people knew about all the stuff we do, then maybe more people would join."

The Key Club welcomed anyone. People who were not active in other things, such as sports or other clubs, could have fun in the club. They helped around home, school, the community, hospitals, needy families, or anyone else who needed help.

■ Nick farabaugh





“

To the end of his days Bilbo could never remember how he found himself outside, without a hat, walking stick or any money, or anything that he usually took when he went out; leaving his second breakfast unfinished and quite unwashed up..."

This situation as described by Tolkien was something that students found themselves facing virtually everyday of their lives. They were out of the house as fast as possible, often dishevelled and lacking funds for both fun and food.

This brought out the need for a job. Students were employed in a wide variety of fields from flipping burgers to designing T-shirts. Some were out to learn about an eventual way of life, while others were just trying to get some spending money while saving for college.

The money then led to the fun.

Merrillville's students could be found hanging out at movie theaters, Denny's, and the malls throughout the school year until the cold winter kept most of them indoors.

But, some were out in the bitter cold tobogganing and skiing at the dunes. Of course, there wasn't much snow this winter. And when there was, it was too cold to attend school. People froze just going out to the mailbox so tumbling through the snow didn't seem like an option.

However, the summer offered a score of options for bored students.

The two area waterparks attracted attention on many a hot summer day. Splash Down Dunes offered eight waterslides, four of which were high up and straight down. Deep River Waterpark built three new tunnel waterslides to go along with the twisty and tube slides that they already had. These two parks led to loads of entertainment for the average student.

The Dunes State Park was also a popular place to hang out. Tanning on the beach and romping through the woods passed many a student's summer.

Everyone led a different lifestyle throughout the year. Upon looking deeper it was obvious that the 2,014 students at Merrillville lived life uniquely. Whether that involved playing sports, going to the movies, water parks or just hanging around the house with some friends, everyone had fun.

■ Chris Sikich

Looking Deeper

LIFESTYLE

*While many students seemed
to mutter "I Don't
Wanna' Work" others
looked forward to their jobs*

When you heard the word job, what came to mind? Drive-thrus, value meals, and funny little hats, right? Think again.

Some students had jobs that might surprise you. Hotel desk clerk, trap girl, and graphic artist were just a few examples of out of the ordinary jobs that students had.

While the jobs may not be common, they can be a lot of fun. Samantha Dimoff, '97, had a job at Knights of Columbus helping to set up tables for weddings.

"Not only is it exciting to get to see all of the weddings, I just work weekends which allows time for volleyball," she said.

If working for weddings sounded fascinating, what about the students who got to catch a glimpse of their favorite comedian or rock star? Stephanie Sperka, '98, worked as an usher at the Star Plaza Theater.

"It has its ups and downs. You don't get too close to the stars, and not all of the music is good, but I get to see the good acts for free!"

Brandon Dzunda '97, also got paid to do something not many of us got to do. He worked at Mike's Sporting Goods as a graphic artist, designing sweatshirts for high schools and colleges.

Dzunda said, "I like my job because I get to play on the computer."

While some got to play, others had to work twice, maybe even three times, as hard to earn their money. Elisabeth Black, '97, held down three jobs along with other after school activities. She worked as a bus-person at The Hobart Elks, and at Izaak Walton as a "trap girl" putting clay pigeons on a machine. She also ran the sound and spotlights in the MHS auditorium, as well as helping out backstage with props and sets for many different shows. Black said that out of the three, this one was her favorite.

"It's a good experience. It educates me because I plan on continuing dancing after high school. It's fascinating to watch others and learn from their mistakes."

Whether they worked towards their future plans or just tried to earn a little extra money, jobs were certainly a significant part of the students' lives.

■**By Krissy Malast**

**BACK TO THE
DRAWING
BOARD ■**

*Brandon Dzunda
designs shirts that
many MHS
athletes sported this
year.*

*"Front Desk-
how can I help
you?" Nicole
Cole spends
many a night
behind the front
desk at the
Comfort Inn.*



STRIPPIN' DOWN

*Bill Santelik
works as a
furniture
stripper at
Naked Furni-
ture.*

BURN BABY BURN

*April Pieroni
gets paid to get
a tan at Hidden
Lake Park. She
works summers
as a lifeguard.*

Students found that

DRIVING *wasn't always*

what it was banged up to be.

Some are old, some are new, some are borrowed, some are blue. No, this isn't a wedding; it's the student parking lot! Some students cherished their cars and drove responsibly to avoid accidents and tickets. Other students could care less and treated their cars as nothing more than tanks in battle.

Teenage drivers and accidents often came hand in hand. Looking across the student lot, there's hardly a car without a dent, broken tail light, or lopsided bumper.

"One thing I won't miss when I graduate is the MHS parking lot," said Stephanie Nicolini, '97. "It is amazing how many incompetent, ignorant drivers there are. One day I was moving my car around for track practice, and I was rear ended by an irresponsible underclassman driver. It didn't do a lot of damage, but what bothered me was that I was inconvenienced by not having a car while it was getting fixed."

Other students were not so lucky when it came to damages. On April 9, the day it snowed, Joe Mallory, '98 was pulling up to the intersection of 73rd and Broadway in his '89 Escort.

"My car started to slide, I dodged two cars, and then it was either hit a brand new truck or the bus, so I chose the bus. The driver didn't know that I had hit her, and she kept going. My car was stuck under the bus, and was dragged along with it. She realized she hit me when she ran over my bumper, and she pulled over." Unfortunately his car was totaled, but Mallory came out of the accident unscathed, and returned to school that same day.

Mike Flutka, '98, also had an experience that sent his '90 Chevy Nova to the car lot in the sky.

"I crested the hill just past 73rd and Mississippi. I saw a maroon Grand Prix driven by Cristina DeLong and a Fiero driven by Mike Hunke. They were stopped because an older man was going to make a left hand turn. I slammed on the brakes, but it was too late. I rammed Christina who nudged Hunke. The Nova was gone forever." Flutka's car and DeLong's cars were both destroyed.

Even though students made an effort to drive safely, almost everyone had the occasional fender bender. Though some students treated it as if it was no big deal, many responsibilities came along with driving.

■ **Stacey Brown**

**NAME
GAME ■**

Many students give their cars names to make them unique.

IT'S A HIT ■

One student's car shows it's battle scars in a major way. There were hardly any cars without some kind of damage.





**STAYIN'
LATE** ■ Cars sat in the lot after school. Many students drove so they could get home from after school activities.

**LET IT
SNOW** ■ Snow caused many obstacles when going home. Many times the lines were covered and cars triple parked.





HOUDINI ■

Jay LaCney rocked on while brother Nate wailed the drums.



GETTING REAL ■

Duray Lawrence rapped during the Revue.





When the **MUSIC'S** **OVER** *on the radio many*

*teenagers decide to go out and make
music of their own.*

The 1996-97 school year was an eventful one for music.

Fans witnessed the birth of techno and re-entry of garbage music into the American pop culture. In a time with no heroes, no rock idols, no big band to absolutely sweep people off of their feet, what was the answer?

Make your own. This year witnessed the uproar of some of the music talent that Merrillville High School had to offer.

With visions of Thirsty Camel and Antistar in their heads, local kids bought instruments and taught themselves how to play them, thus creating a local music scene.

Houdini made Revue history by being the only band to play in the Revue two years in a row.

Led by front man Brad Balcerak, they once again captured the audience's attention. This band released the track, "Nik's Kola" which was available at the Sound Waves competition. Balcerak was predicting a re-release over the summer.

The rap group Abstract also wandered into the minds of Merrillville High School students during this year's Revue. They were planning to release a single entitled, "Untitled" over the summer of '97.

Following in the tradition of "MPH", Abstract rapped over turned down beats and was thoroughly frustrated by administration hoopla, but hey, it would have been cool any other way.

Finally, Zero Degrees made their attempt to revive the eighty's heavy metal pop culture. They released the song, "Stay Away" at the Sound Waves concert and plan to re-release it over the summer. They were led by vocalist Jake Sills, '98.

He commented, "We're influenced by just about any artist with something genuine to say...some type of true feeling behind their music."

Yes, it was another year of local music. The teenagers of the area once again gathered together to try and change music for themselves, their town, and the world.

PREPARED TO FACE THE CROWD

*James Haley
and Brian
Hatfield looked
into the crowd
before they came
on stage.*



ABSTRACT

**Duray
Lawrence**
showed his skills
on the mic in
the '97 Revue.

A HUNDRED WORDS A MINUTE ■

Hiroka Soneda concentrated hard on her typing in Keyboarding 1.



THE DREAMER ■

Ester Garai pays close attention to the teacher as she listens to a lecture.





TIPPING TEST TUBES ■

Carolina Xavier concentrated intensely on her textbook before working on her lab.

Foreign exchange students

Occupied the hall-

ways of MHS in their attempt to

learn about American culture

Could you imagine spending your senior year in another country? Many schools offer just such an experience.

Three students took advantage of that opportunity and came to MHS for their last year. These three foreign exchange students were Ester Garai, Hiroko Soneda, and Carolina Xavier.

Once the foreign exchange students reached their destination, all of their emotions were mixed. They were scared of what they would run into, but at the same time, excited about the same thing. Once they realized that their time in America was running short, those feelings came back. They were excited to return to their families and also scared of what waited for them back home.

During her time here, Garai stayed with Angela Gerushka, '97. "I like going to Chicago. We go at least once or twice a month," said Ester. "The family that I stay with is very nice. They make me feel at home." Garai came to Merrillville from Hungary. A lot of adjusting was necessary once she arrived. For instance, her high school classes didn't meet every day like we do here at MHS. She even had to adjust to the food she ate. Hungary didn't have a McDonald's or Burger King on every other street corner.

Soneda was here from Japan while Xavier was from South America.

Many things could be learned from these adventurous students. You could get a good picture of what life was like in their home country. Although it is better to see it first hand by yourself, having someone from there tell you about it is kind of fascinating too. At least it's better than nothing. Maybe it is a great idea to go visit another country. Perhaps developing a knack for their culture would be fun.



PERIODI- CALLY ■

Carolina Xavier sits amid a sea of elements in Chemistry.

*It started with a glance, then a
look, to their phone number, then
you began* **DATING.**

Could love at first sight really exist?

If Truth or Dare was just a game, then Amy Gutierrez and Nick Brasovan, both '97, wouldn't still be together.

Back in the summer of '94 these two were dared to kiss each other and have been together ever since. When asked about what was the key to their relationship, Brasovan replied, "Amy has always been there for me no matter what."

They both agreed that their relationship was very understanding. Gutierrez said that instead of yelling at her "Nick tries to talk things out."

Tiffany Januszewski and David Maldonado, both '97, agreed that these past few years were the best three years of their life.

These two were dating since the spring of '94. They first met in Kentucky on a band field trip. When asked about what was so special about their relationship, Maldonado commented, "that along with being his girlfriend, she is also his best friend."

How ideal was this; the head cheerleader dating the football/basketball player. Sound too good to be true?

Well, that's exactly what Christin Cirrincione and PJ Montoleone's, both '98, relationship looked like. These two both had very busy schedules. Montoleone had either football or basketball practice every day after school. Cirrincione either worked or had cheerleading practice every day after school. They both had hectic schedules, but they still found time for each other.

Back in seventh grade girls were just starting to realize that the boy next door really could just be her knight in shining armor.

That's what Patty Underwood, '99, said about her three year boyfriend Joel Sanchez, also '99. These two have been together ever since they were in seventh grade at Pierce Middle School.

While Underwood dedicated her time to dancing on the Pom-Pon squad, she still found time to go to Sanchez's soccer games.

Whenever Underwood was feeling down about something, whether it was fighting with her mom or just a bad day, she knew she could just give Sanchez a call because he could always cheer her up.

Sanchez added that "Patty is beautiful and funny and that's why I love her."

■ Deanna Gonzalez

DATING ? ■
*Helen
Andreatos and
David Aimone
have been dating
without their
friends knowing
about it.*

FRAT HAT
■ Nicole Cole
and her boy-
friend from
South Bend
went to prom
together.



PERFECT ■

P.J. Montoleone and Christin Cirincione, were the perfect couple at Prom.

GUS ■

David Kelsey and Kristin Kamanka have been dating for half a year.

*Where does one go to have fun
with friends and get away from
home? Why the answer is*

HANGOUTS

Another year has past; yet another year of great times at great places.

How could it be forgotten? The very thing students lived for, the week-end. Students would plan long and hard with friends to decide how they would spend their weekend. Few cared about the current class agenda, or what the lecture was. No, all that mattered was what we had planned for the weekend with our friends.

Remember how people used to hang out at Denny's? It was the local hangout where one was able to find the remnants of teenage life. It was not the quality of food that brought us, but the ability to sit, chill, and hold a conversation with friends, with the hope to see yet a few more.

The Mall. Here we were able to wander endlessly in search of friends and fodder. As we wandered, one could not escape the faint scents of glorious food and beverage. But unlike the food at Denny's, it made our mouths water and noses flare.

But the best place to hangout was the Friday night football and basketball games. This was always the place to be. Sitting in your favorite section with friends, cheering for our valiant knights in purple on their way to yet another battle of skill, wit, and determination. Here we also got to enjoy the antics of the Super Fans, and their degradation of the fallen opponents.

There have been many other common places to go and hang out. The pool hall for one, has been a popular hangout. "I enjoy going [to play pool] to hang out with my friends and to just chill out and to show off what new trick or bank I have learned," commented Billy Jackomis, '99.

Still others enjoyed going out to catch the latest movie. The new Showplace 16 brought the cost of Hollywood's latest offerings into the affordable range.

No matter what we wanted to do, it seemed like we could always find a place to hangout.

Don DeLong

ANOTHER TYPICAL NIGHT ■

Alex Jovanovich
chills out at
Stardust II like
many other
students after
school was over.

SIDE POCKET ■

James Haley
lines up a shot
as Jason
Franzen looks
on. Pool became
a popular
pastime during
the winter
months.





AFTER THE GAME ■

Students wait for their rides after attending one of the many victorious home football games.

SMILE ■

Greg Mallory, Rebekah Juska, Mandy Sepko, Dave Kelsey, Maegan Krisko, and John Foster get cheesy while sitting at Applebee's





SINGING IN THE SUN ■

The choir performs at the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas during the 1997 Spring Break.



FLOCKING SOUTH ■

Some students stay at a hotel right on the beach on their Spring Break trip to Florida.





From Diving for deep sea creatures

to attending the Spurs game, that's

what SPRING

BREAK was all about

From Swimming in the Atlantic to ringing up a customer at Sears; that's how diverse Spring Break was.

Spring Break brought about various activities for students. Some took this time to just relax in the area, while others took this opportunity to get away and have some well deserved fun. Although many of students took this time to go on vacation, the majority of the student body stayed around home for various reasons.

Nicole Paniaguas, '97, spent her spring break working at her job at Sears. Paniaguas also commented, "I did however manage to get out of the region a couple of times to the Paladrome and around Chicago. I also sat for five hours in the tatoo studio while my boyfriend got his tatoo finished."

Jennifer Wilson, '98, spent part of her Spring Break camping at Shakamack State Park with her boyfriend, Tom Aliff, '97. Some of Wilson's fondest memories were, "watching the sunset with Tom on a cliff overlooking a lake, cuddling up by the fire, hiking through the woods, and horseback riding."

Karla Schell and Katie Shapkroff, both '97, spent their Spring Break lying on the beach in South Carolina. Schell felt that her "Spring Break was awesome for the simple fact that I wasn't here."

Tiffany Mickey, '97, spent her vacation with her family in Mexico. In Mexico, Mickey spent a lot of time on the beach and shopping.

Bill Santelik, '97, spent his spring break in Washington D.C. for the National 4-H conference. At the conference there were 350 teenagers from North and South America. Santelik was one of the four chosen to represent 200,000 Indiana 4-H members. This was quite an honor and gave him an opportunity to attend workshops and meet more people in 4-H.

MHS choir had the opportunity to spend their entire break together performing in San Antonio, Texas. Aside for performing on the Riverwalk, they also went to the Spurs game and Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Danny Spaliaras, '98, remarked, "The trip was good except for all of the rain."

For the majority, students enjoyed their Spring Break whether it was spent on a beach in Florida or relaxing on the couch at home.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

TAKING A BREAK ■

Brandon Dzunda and Brad Balcerak take a break from the beach while visiting Huttons Island.



HEADING HOME ■

Deanna Gonzalez and Amy Gutierrez wait for the trip home after a fun, yet tiring week.

**STILL
LOOKING
GOOD ■**

Antoine Gaines tries to look good after gym class.

**HOME-
COMING
FASHION ■**

*Melba Mont-
gomery,
Rasheeda
Maxwell and
their friends
start a new
fashion trend for
Homecoming.*





If Alternative, Retro, Baggy,

or Gang'sta was your

FASHION then

MHS had your style

From big, baggy jeans to fitting bell bottoms, everything was the trend at Merrillville High School.

The many different styles of clothing die because of the different groups of people here. Some people dressed preppy, alternative, or retro. Then there were people dressed to suit themselves.

A survey was taken by some students about the styles of our school. The majority of the surveyed students argued that retro and alternative were at the top of their lists.

Alternative dressers have became very popular. Most alternative dressers dressed the same way. They wore big jeans with oversized shirts. Some guys wore Dr. Martin's or Airwalks.

This year long chains were banned for safety reasons. Many students were upset with this because having them was a big thing.

Last year there was retro flashback! This style of fashion is basically shown through girls at MHS. They wore flares, polyester shirts, little baby tees, and plastic shirts and coats. A form of platform shoes hit MHS. But TRUE platforms had not come this way yet.

Another typical accessory of someone who dressed retro was a weird purse. Some were covered in blue or purple fuzz, made of snake skin, or in the shapes of TV's and toothpaste.

Dorin Derico, '97, was on hand to explain just how he liked girls to dress. "I like when girls dress exotic; it really impresses me!"

Since there were many styles, many people felt that there was not one certain style that dominated over another.

Angelo Howard, '97, said, "I don't judge a person by the way that they dress. What matters is what is on the inside."

Students felt that too many people were worried about how other people dressed. They think people should have concentrated on dressing their own way and not on criticizing others on their fashion.

Natalie Nimon

SEARCH- ING FOR THE BEST ■

Debbie Choate
searches for the
perfect outfit in
Rave in
Southlake Mall.



BACK IN FASHION ■

Kelly Preuss
sports her tie
dye shirt, one
fashion from the
late 60's and
early 70's
which has new
popularity.

Although some students didn't wear purple and white, they were in the SAME GAME after the same thing.

For some students at MHS, going to practice didn't mean heading down to the Fieldhouse. It was more like heading over to Stardust or trekking over the state border to an ice skating rink.

Although MHS offered all IHSAA sponsored sports, many students had reasons to participate in out of school sports. Some participated in sports not offered by the school, such as taekwondo, bowling, and ice hockey. Others chose to play sports offered by MHS out of school for several reasons, such as different competition and atmosphere. Athletes may have participated in a sport for the school and belonged to an outside club of the same sport. This permitted athletes to stay in better shape for the sport. This was common for many gymnasts, swimmers, basketball, volleyball, and softball players.

One popular out of school sport was martial arts. Jon Garcia, '97, had been involved in martial arts taekwon-karate for the last two years. He described it as "a sport of great dedication, and mental toughness." In this sport, Garcia qualified and placed for tournaments such as the Indiana State Taekwondo Championships. Garcia also qualified for the Junior National Olympic Taekwondo Championships. These tournaments have taken Garcia throughout Indiana and far as Florida.

Heather Lohse, '97, another participant in out of school sports, had bowled since she was three. Consequently, she had many achievements in her career. Lohse placed as high as third at state and qualified for various scholarship tournaments. Although Lohse can't represent her school in bowling, she had the opportunity to do so in college, either at Indiana State or Vincennes. Some other MHS bowlers in Lohse's league were Brian Chapman, David Cram, Derrick Hargrove, Nick Vurva, Melissa Polynczyk, Alicia Shingler, Kyle Ensign, and Chris Charleston.

Whether students had football game at Demaree Stadium or a hockey tournament at the Homewood-Flossmore Rink, they were all athletes who deserved the same respect. Whether the sport was in or out of school, participants gave the same effort and sacrifice to strive for success.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

SWINGING AWAY ■

Jeremy Rick, '98, poses for a picture. Rick was one of many MHS students in out of school sports.



WORKING IT ■

Some students used the Fitness Center in order to train for their out of school sports.





**EYE
LEVEL**

Dejan Ristevski pursued the ball in a soccer match. Many soccer players trained in the off season.



IT'S A KICK

■ Jon Garcia, '97, participated in one of his many Taekwondo tournaments. Garcia made it as far as the national level.





For the next eight to ten months, Oliver was the victim of a systematic course of treachery and deception."

High school students often faced much the same situation as Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. The school year was tediously long and filled with pitfalls for unwary students. Simple things like being late to class and chewing gum easily led to disciplinary action.

Homework was also a major problem. Seven and a half hour school days didn't appear to satisfy most teachers. They insisted on supplying another four or five hours of what often seemed like meaningless drivel to students.

"As flies to wanton boy's are we to the Gods; They kill us for their sport."

It frequently seemed like teachers were trying to take this Shakespearean phrase to heart when they doled out workload on top of workload to students.

But, many positive things did come out of this intensive training period. It helped prepare students for college and the work force.

Those who were able to use this thought to mentally survive the long days found that the school had broadened the range of classes.

Many of the elective programs that Merrillville offered were updated. For instance, the Home Economics department used to offer just cooking and sewing. Then, the department was expanded to include such classes as Gourmet Foods and Home Decorating. Now the department is called Family and Consumer Sciences.

There were also a multitude of clubs for students to join. Speech and Debate gave students the opportunity to test their oratory skills against other schools while the Key Club helped clean up the environment.

Besides having a new principal, the school was also hit with an influx of new teachers. A total of 22 new members were taken into the teachers' fold. Some of them were transfers from other Merrillville schools, but most were freshly hired out of college.

With the new programs being offered, and the number of new teachers roaming the hallways, students felt much like Valentine Michael Smith in Robert Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land."

Chris Sikich

Looking Deeper ACADEMICS

10 FINEST ■

The top ten students from the Class of '97 pose with the teachers they believe helped them the most.



Seniors finally rewarded for all of their hours of hard work.

All the hours of studying paid off for ten seniors. Ten seniors were honored at the Roots and Wings Banquet sponsored by National Honor Society at the end of the year. These seniors were Sharon Segvich, Julie Jackson, Michelle Perez, Kathleen Wisniewski, Jill Theobald, Nick Gonzalez, John Miller, Chris Moes, Joe Moore, and T.J. Stochel.

Each of these ten seniors got to pick their favorite teacher who had the most impact on them to go with them to the awards banquet.

Also, Sharon Segvich was honored as the Valedictorian for her class, and Joe Moore was honored as the Salutatorian.

Every senior who was honored was very proud of him or herself. Michelle Perez said, "I know it is kind of egotistical, but I worked really hard to earn these awards, and I am very proud of myself."

Sharon Segvich received the Academic Honors, Top 10%, Valedictorian, Indiana Medical Association Scholarship, Tandy Scholar Award, Presidential Award, Hoosier Excellence Scholarship, Purdue Alumni Scholarship, Society of Women Engineers Scholar, and the Math and Science Department Awards.

HONORED

Megan Shelton

Segvich said, "I feel a sense of accomplishment. It is nice to be recognized for all of my hard work." However, Segvich feels that Kelly Meeks, Janell Deem, Neal Fedak, and Frank Halcarz all deserve awards for their persistence and not giving up. She will be going to Purdue University in a West Lafayette to study engineering.

Michelle Perez received awards for Academic Honors, top 10%, Hispanic Merit Finalist, National Merit Finalist, Tandy Scholarship, Richard Lugar Scholarship, and National Honor Society Scholarship.

Perez says that, "...after four years, I have finally earned enough. I have accomplished the most academically I could have ever hoped." She feels out of all the people that received the same awards Joe Moore and Johnny Miller deserved them the most. She calls them, "...great people and good workers."

FINALLY NO PRESSURE ■

The top students take time to relax and enjoy themselves after years of working hard. The Roots and Wings Banquet followed a week of AP testing for many of these students.

Question & answer **Q&A**

Q: Are you proud to get these awards?



A: I'm very proud of all of my awards solely because I've earned them.
- Sharon Segvich



SHOWING OFF ■ Joe Moore and Chris Moes show off their awards from the Roots and Wings dinner.

Question & answer

Q&A

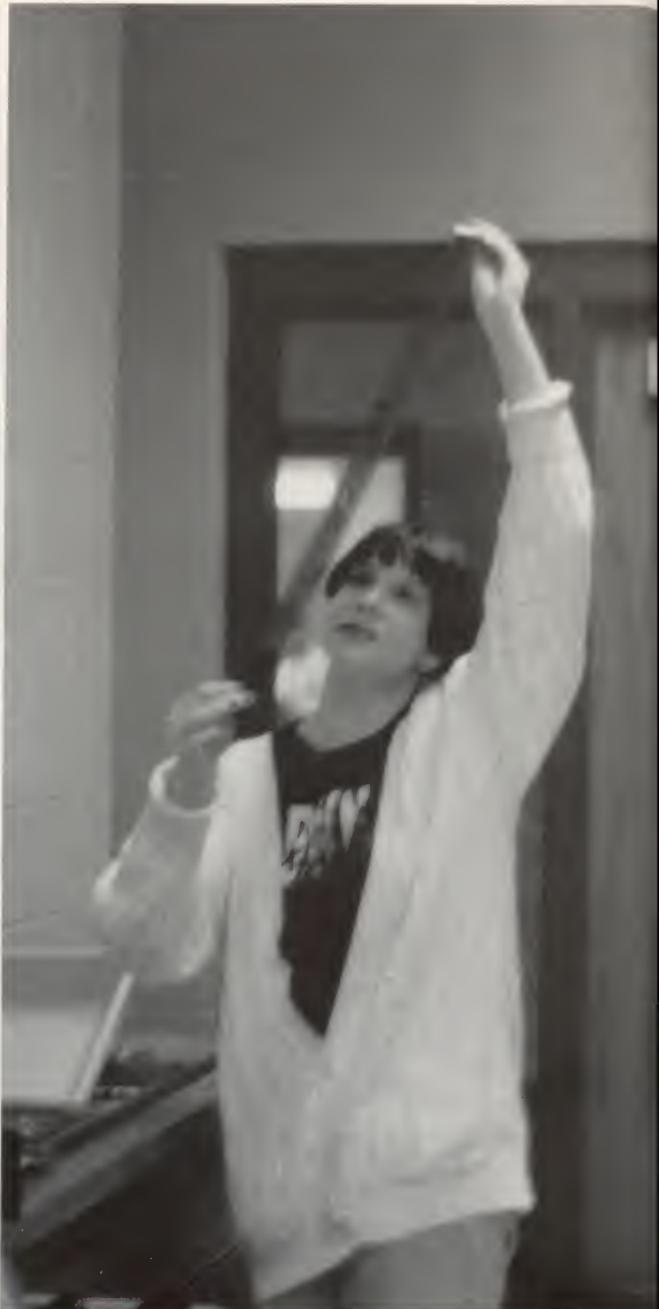
Q: What advice do you have for art students?

A: Don't throw clay. Don't be tardy. Put on lotion after playing with the clay.

- Jake Sills



NEW WAVE ■ An art student learns computer assisted design. This newer form of art is taught by Wanda Rice.





PENCILING IN ■ An art student works on his project for his drawing class.

ARTISTICALLY

Walking past the Eleanor Lewis Art Gallery by the main office was a breath taking experience throughout the school year. Numerous exhibits of the extraordinary art work created by some Merrillville High School art students was displayed there.

The displays varied from ceramics to paintings allowing students to demonstrate the work they had done in all types of mediums. One display featured a wall of different masks behind a bunch of ceramic pieces.

During the first couple weeks of May, Randy Brant, '97, had a one man show in the gallery. His imaginative work varied from paintings to sculptures. His work was very detailed and time consuming especially a guitar that he had engraved on the back.

Brant engraved detailed pictures of dead rock stars Jerry Garcia, Kurt Cobain, and Jimi Hendrix on the electric guitar.

Another major project was the mural Delphine Wedding, '97, was painting for the fire department. The massive size of the piece kept it from being displayed in the art gallery.

The art department offered many different types of classes. For instance, there were ceramics, photography, art fundamentals, drawing, painting, and computer art classes.

Students in the art classes not only received grades for having fun, but they enhanced their capabilities. Art students learn many different types of skills. Students have to learn to manage their time wisely to get their projects done on time besides having artistic talent.

Time, patience, imagination, and incentive were all that was needed to create magnificent masterpieces.

The art teachers enjoyed seeing students doing artistic things in their spare time.

Students were required to take a Fine Arts to graduate. Often students find that they have an interest in art or are talented at art and want to continue.

Displays varied from ceramics to paintings allowing students to demonstrate work they had done.

SPEAKING

Erin McDermott

TAKING A LOOK ■

Julianne Peppas holds her negatives up to the light to see how her latest project is progressing. Photography is one aspect of art that is offered in the art department.

ALL DONE ■

Students in Family Living class take a break after they have completed the day's assignment.



NEW NAME

No more home economics; now family and consumer sciences.

A lot of people try to find an easy class, but they won't find one in the Family and Consumer Sciences department. All a person has to do is sign up, and they can cook, eat, and learn to fend for themselves once they leave home. Plus, it helps to gain self-confidence fast.

Family and consumer sciences is not only made up of cooking classes, but there are also classes like child development, singles living, and much much more.

The name Home Economics was changed to Family and Consumer Sciences to better show the variety of classes now being taught.

In the child development classes the students actually get a chance to sponsor a week where people plan activities for children, so the little kids can come in and play with the students in the child development class.

Don Delong, '97, said the reason he took a foods class was "because I enjoy cooking, and it allows me to make different types of food. Also, when I have a girlfriend over I can impress her with my excellent food." He also said he took that class to help him get ready to fend for himself when it came around to going to college.

FITS CLASSES

Cathy Snelson

That was a reason most of the people choose to take a Family and Consumer Science classes. Other reasons are because they want to go into that field of work. Any way a person looks at it, Family and Consumer Science classes are important, not just for school, but for when a student gets out of school.

Benito White explained the reason he took a Family and Consumer Science classes was, "So I can make different types of food." Antwayn Spencer explained, "I took these types of classes to help me learn a form of responsibility."

Family and Consumer Sciences also had classes in which a person planned a wedding, or even planned decorating the interior of a house.

Plus, there was also the HERO (Home Economics Related Occupations) class where the students only go to school a half day and then go to work the other half. However, for this class you had to apply and be accepted.

The department also sponsored a club called Future Homemakers of America and two dances a year.

NEW CHOICES ■

Classes are no longer restricted to Foods and Sewing. Students were able to take Gourmet Foods and Cake Decorating.



Question & answer **Q&A**

Q: Why do you think students take this kind of classes?



A: I took this kind of classes so I could cook something other than macaroni and cheese.
-Jeanette West



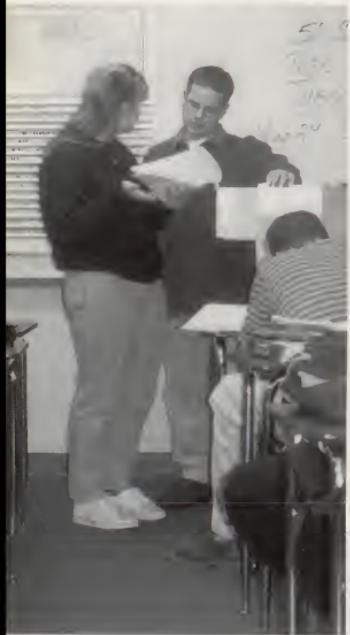
HOW IT FEELS ■ Students in Child Development take turns wearing the "Empathy Belly" to learn what it feels like to be pregnant.

Question & answer

Q&A

Q: Why did you come to Merrillville to be a student teacher?

A: I came to Merrillville because of its strong reputation, outstanding faculty, and its multicultural setting.



THIS IS RIGHT ■

Craig Stafford explains the grade on a homework assignment to a concerned student.





**THE POINT
IS ■** *Mark Labroscian strives to get his point across to Jim Edgecomb's social studies students.*

LEARNING

Everyone loved having a student teacher. Students thought they could get out of class, and tried to take advantage of having someone who was not as experienced as their regular teacher.

That didn't work for these student years teachers! They took their work seriously and were well educated enough to out think those who tried to take advantage of them.

Students who were striving to become teachers took the final step to receive a degree in education. The final step included choosing a school to student teach at. Also, students had to keep a certain grade point average at their college and made lesson plans for teaching. Towards the end of the semester the students were evaluated by their professor.

Social studies teacher Diane Mandon's student teacher, Craig Stafford chose Merrillville for "its strong reputation, outstanding faculty, and its multicultural setting."

Stafford graduated from Andrean High School.

He said, "The students of MHS do not realize how lucky they are to have such a great high school." He wanted to teach here so he could experience all the opportunities at MHS. So in the future he could be a better teacher.

Michael Dunn, who taught for English teacher Randy Stelter commented that MHS was "overwhelming in size" compared to his old high school, Lake Station.

Stafford agreed, "I try not to wander out of A hallway too often, in fear of getting lost!"

Dunn who was attending Northwestern I.U. hoped to teach here after graduation. The knowledge he gained from MHS was be very helpful in applying for a job.

Stafford, who graduated from Ball State, in December wanted to teach social studies at an elementary or middle school level. After he graduated he became a familiar face as a substitute teacher.

The student teachers were very happy with the students' behavior and the welcome they received from the faculty. The student teachers felt like they were at home here. Also, they loved the fact that they were actually helping students so they could be successful.

■ **Jodi Yambrisak**

Student teachers learn to cope in a classroom of the 90's

THE ROPES

WORK IT ■

*Jimm Stack,
student teacher
for Rick
Wimmer's gym
class, likes to see
his kids have fun
while they sweat.*

PLAYING THE ROLE

■ Newcomer Zack Frank steals the show as he plays Dracula's devoted servant.



TO BE OR

After the final performance, the cow that Lori Megyesi created disappeared.

"Cry to be heard, as 'twere from heaven to earth..." this quote from William Shakespeare was what the students wanted and yearned for. To be heard by all who attended.

The first play this year was "Dracula." The most remembered actors of the cast were Buddy Herzog as Dr. VonHelsein, Alex Malinovich as Dracula, and Lisa Farver as Luci. But unfortunately a freshman by the name of Zack Frank stole the show with his portrayal of Dracula's devoted servant.

Following the play there was a mystery. "After the final performance, the cow that Lori Megyesi created disappeared" explained Rachel Bright.

This year Drama Club hosted the annual regional conference for Drama Clubs. Schools from all over Northwest Indiana were present. Some came from as far away as Kankakee Valley. Drama Club members spent many hours

after school typing up rules and applications, and getting an improved script together. When the

conference finally came everything went smoothly. Not even the blistering cold weather that caused the cancellation of school for two days prevented the flow of events. Even the school food was complimented. "It was a chance to meet other people in the area with similar interests and participate in friendly competition," Rachel Bright remarked about the whole ordeal.

This year most of the body felt that the spring musical "Into the Woods" was the best performance ever directed by Mark Owen. The amount of work and effort that was put into the show by cast members was enough to exhaust even the most active student. There were many, many late nights and days at Denny's going over lines and parts.

When the cast went to Owen's house for the cast party, and ended up watching the Broadway performance of "Into the Woods" and did character analysis and tried to decide what each performer's motivation was.

■ Don Delong

GO AWAY ■

Deanna Price and Mike Glorioso had a discussion during the play "Dracula."

Question & answer **Q&A**

Q What was your most memorable moment in drama?



A: When the flash pot exploded and burned all the hair on Brian Kesler's arm off.
-Rachel Bright



WHO WROTE THIS ■

Buddy Herzog recited the material written on the old piece of paper.

Question & answer

Q&A

Q What does being inducted into Quill and Scroll mean to you?

A: It's a family thing. My brother and my mom were both members too.
-Cathy Snelson



A WARM WELCOME ■

Marc Bruner congratulates a new inductee at the end of the Induction Ceremony.





GETTING CARDED ■

LaTonzia Adams accepts her membership card from past-president Brian Snelson and this year's officers.

PROMOTING

What was Quill and Scroll? Most of the student body and some of the faculty had no idea. In reality Quill and Scroll was an International Honorary Society for High School Journalists.

Although many people didn't know about it, the club met before school on Wednesday mornings. The club was trying to become more active because they had their largest number of members in years. Strict membership rules have often limited the number of journalism students eligible for membership in the club.

Membership in Quill and Scroll was by invitation only. To be invited to join students had to meet the criteria set down by the international organization. First, they had to be in the top third of their class. Second, they were required to be actively participating in journalism. Then, they had to be recommended by their journalism adviser. Finally, they had to be approved by the existing membership of the club.

Membership rules also said that journalism students were not eligible for membership until the second semester of their sophomore year.

Originally open only to newspaper and yearbook staffs, the club began recognizing broadcast journalists four years ago.

Marc Bruner, '97, was the club president. Stephen Salcedo, '97, was vice president. Leslie Malerich, '98, was club treasurer while Rebekah Jusko, '97, was the secretary.

Club sponsor Jean Stanford said, "We had a lot of plans that didn't get completed this year, but we have a lot of underclassmen coming back. We hope to get our service projects underway early."

The club had its Candlelight Initiation Ceremony in the spring as a part of the annual publications banquet. New members were officially inducted into the Agnes Lynch Chapter of Quill and Scroll and awards were handed out.

This year eight seniors received the group's purple and silver honor cords to wear at graduation. They were Amanda Buda, Marc Bruner, Rebekah Jusko, Kristina Malast, Nicole Moor, Stephanie Nicolini, Stephen Salcedo, and Christopher Sikich.

Strict membership rules have often limited the number of students eligible for membership.

JOURNALISM

*Nikki
Blondeel*

BEING SERIOUS ■

Rebekah Jusko lights the candle of "integrity" from the candle of "truth" during Quill and Scroll induction ceremony. Each candle represents an important aspect of journalism.



**REAPING
THE
REWARDS**

Michele Perez
benefited from her
long hours of
studying the
hardest subjects.



PASS OR

Many seniors tried to skip college classes the legal way, by testing out.

Imagine a room where any sound but the scratching of pencil on paper was a novelty, where the smell of burning graphite prevails, where two dozen tension riddled high school students poured over a small green booklet for three hours.

Welcome to Merrillville High School's edition of the nation-wide College Board Advanced Placement Testing.

For those who dared to brave the combined four hour block of testing (four hours including the sign-up times) it was, well, an experience.

Advanced Placement classes, included AP English, AP Calculus, AP History, AP Psychology, AP Physics, and AP Foreign Languages were grueling test prep courses, with most of the subject matter directed at test preparation.

All advanced science courses were also eligible to take the exam, but were not formally regarded as AP classes.

Students took the tests to try for college credit, with so many credit hours awarded each grade on the test.

The amount of credit awarded could sometimes be enough to fulfill a college requirement in these subjects, not to mention

save a lot of money in tuition.

But the question was, was it worth all that hard work?

"We won't know until the grades come out," remarked Frank Halcarz, '97. But I think it was worth it just for the chance to score well."

Regarding the calculus test, Joe Moore, '97 said simply, "AAAAAGGGHHHH."

Many students who signed up for the course and the test decided not to take it at the last minute. Some of the tests cost upwards of 50 dollars, and the students didn't want to waste their money on a lost cause.

This year's test takers were more than ready though. As in past years, Merrillville should rank well among the nation's test takers.

■ Chris Eastlee

FAIL

DEAD OR ALIVE?

German teacher Ray Hamilton was the advanced German teacher. German was one of the hardest A.P. test to pass.



Question Q & answer A

Q. Mrs. Linda Fry, What was the purpose of your A.P. English course?



A. *The purpose of taking the course is to get college credit and to read strange things.*



COLLEGE CREDIT OR A HEADACHE? ■ Eugene Vivo attempted to test out of college credit hours in many of his classes.

Question & answer

Q&A

Q: What was your most memorable moment in newspaper?

A: When I told off my whole staff and quit.



LOOKING FOR IDEAS ■

Don DeLong and Rob Dowdy ponder their next story assignments.



WORKING HARD ■

Stacey Brown,
Krisy Malast,
and Stephanie
Nicolini prepare
to distribute last
year's yearbook.

WRITER'S

Once again Merillville High School publications staffs had a busy and successful year. The *Mirror* produced memorable stories from problems in the parking lot all the way to the cancellation of the spirit point trip, and the *Merrillvue* produced another award winning yearbook.

Though stories were followed, people interviewed, and deadlines met, both publications had their ups and downs. The *Mirror* had a rather unusual year. The editor-in-chief, Jay Richardson, stepped down from his post in mid-April, then Don DeLong stepped in to fill the void.

Several fresh faces appeared on the staff, and with them came many new ideas. One of these was a column featuring reviews of techno music, written by James Haley, Jason Franzen, and Mike Rathburn.

Franzen commented, "We became worldwide celebrities."

The column was sponsored by S&J Stereo. Every two weeks Rathburn was given a C.D. to review by the music shop. Rathburn finished, "Our revolutionary life changing column gave me the opportunity to write about music."

Also popular was Chris Eastlee's column, "Loud and Obnoxious." Chris Sikich commented, "The best part of the *Mirror* was Chris Eastlee's column, in which he dealt with real life issues in a funny satirical manner."

Staff members also thought the class was enjoyable.

"I think the best part was putting together a newspaper, and seeing my work published," said Marygrace Foster, '99.

The *Merrillvue* started out ahead of their deadlines. Later in the year they also had obstacles on the way to the finished product. Unwritten stories, missing photos and computer problems caused delays in the actual production of the book.

Krissy Malast, '97, explained "My photo requests were often ignored; however, I rolled with the changes and did the best I could. I am proud of my work. I couldn't have done it without Chris."

The editor, Sikich, continued "It feels like this yearbook is NEVER gonna get finished. We've been working on this since August."

Nevertheless, the book did get finished as dedicated staffers came in after graduation to finish the last few spreads.

■ Stacey Brown

*The Mirror
and the
Merrillvue
portray life
at MHS*

BLOCK

IT'S A WRAP ■

Chris Eastlee
and Chris Sikich
put the finishing
touches on their
stories.

GOOD LUCK

■ Superintendent Dr. Tony Lux smiles as he presents this graduate with his diploma.



FACING THE

It only took seconds for the 71st graduating class at Merrillville High School to end their 13 year journey.

It only took seconds for the 71st graduating class at Merrillville High School to end their 13 year journey. 407 seniors ended their high school careers with tears, happiness, and just a little nervousness.

A standing-room-only crowd of family and friends watched as the Class of '97 paraded into the Radisson Star Plaza Theatre to the traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance."

The group listened as Principal Forrest Rhode, clad in a black tuxedo, addressed them for the last time in his role as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Eugene Vivo read the class poem as the group sat quietly. Joe Moore, who spoke both as class president and salutatorian looked back over memories from his years in school. He said, "High school is not about getting a diploma, it is about the memories that shaped our lives. This is why people change as they get older."

However, valedictorian Sharon Segvich looked to the future. She said, "The ball is in our court now. We have a chance to start fresh. We are ready to start our new beginning."

After class vice president John Miller presented the class gift, a podium to be made by woodshop students for the auditorium, to School Board President Donna Stath featured speaker Mark Therrien was introduced.

Therrien told students that if they want to be successful they need to laugh at themselves and smile more.

He said, "If you can learn to laugh at yourself for not being perfect, then you can learn to forgive those around you for not being perfect too."

Then the moment finally arrived, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tony Lux, presented seniors with their diploma covers as the audience applauded and occasionally shouted their support.

The Class of '97 stood together one last time as they followed Rhode's instructions to move their tassels from left to right. With that final act, the Class of '97 became alumni.

WORDS OF ADVICE ■

Motivational speaker Mark Therrien tells the graduates to learn to laugh at themselves. He told the group that everyone does stupid stuff that is embarrassing, but they shouldn't take it too seriously.

FUTURE

Stephanie Nicolini

Question & answer **Q&A**

Q: What were you feeling before the graduation ceremony?



A: I was hoping I wouldn't trip going across the stage and getting back to my seat.

-Nikki Weigl

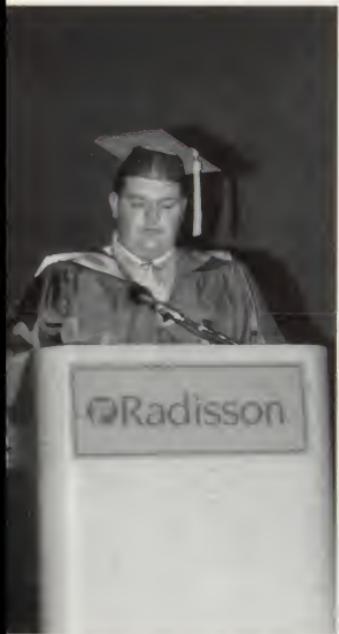


FILING OUT ■ Waiting their turn, members of the Class of '97 stand in line to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

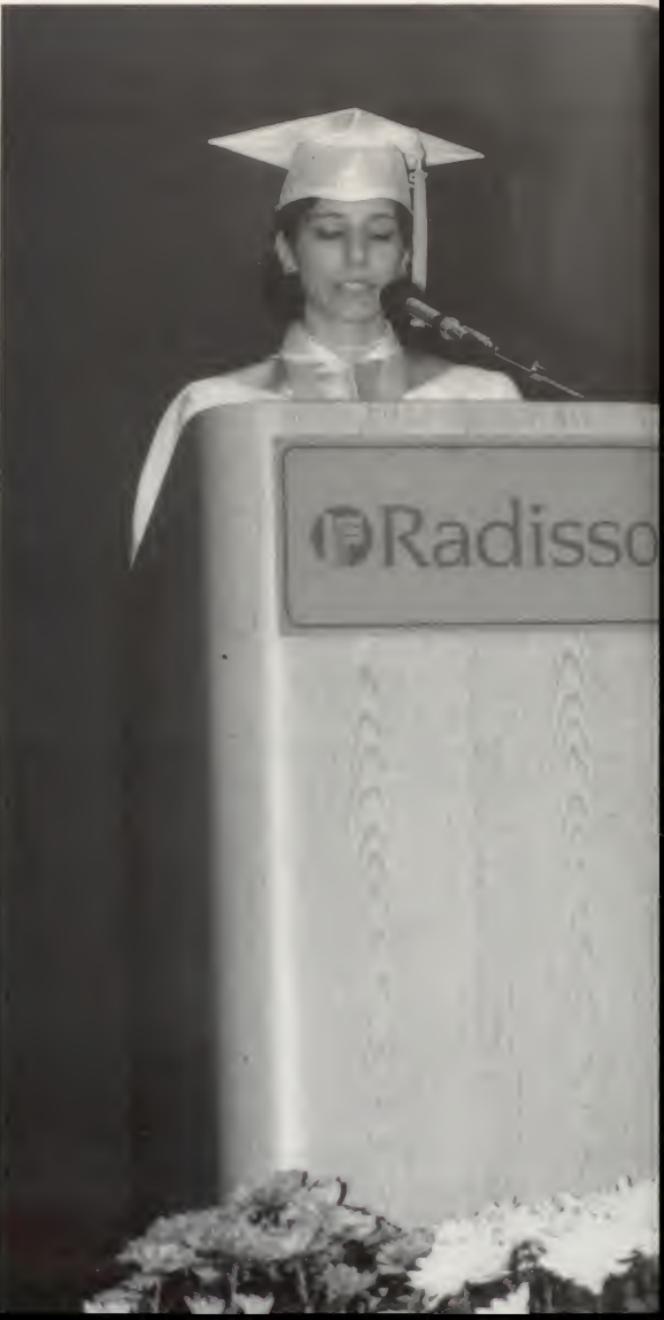
Question & answer **Q&A**

Q: What advice could you give other students?

A: Study as necessary, but listen and work hard during class and you'll be fine.
- Joe Moore



I'M HONORED ■ Joe Moore spoke twice at Commencement, once as class president and once as salutatorian.





ON STAGE

■ Joe Moore,
Principal Forrest
Rhode, Sharon
Segvich, and
John Miller
listen as Eugene
Vivo reads the
senior poem.

WINNING

Sharon Segvich was the valedictorian of the Class of '97 at a time when many other schools in the area are doing away with this honor. Segvich said, "Being valedictorian is a great honor. It is a title that I have earned and am proud of. I was very excited when I first found out."

At commencement Segvich addressed her peers hoping to motivate them to strive to be their best in the future. She told the audience that "the ball is in our court now." Meaning the all the 1997 graduates have a chance to start over. What they make of that chance is up to each individual.

Segvich has made her plans. She was accepted by the School of Engineering at Purdue University Lafayette. She also planned to obtain a minor in French.

She explained that she is not the type who went home everyday and studied her life away although school did play an important part in her life. She also participated in a number of extracurricular activities as well as working at a bicycle shop. Segvich said, "I know my priorities and am determined in everything I do."

She added, "My parents have been extremely important to me. They have never put pressure on me for grades because I put enough on myself."

"I'm not a genius. I worked hard and struggled to earn my grades as much as everyone else."

The salutatorian was Joe Moore. When he first found out he had earned the honor his reaction was, "I was honored, but there were a lot of wonderful people and friends who I had to compete against so I had mixed emotions."

Moore planned to attend Northwestern University in Evanston in the fall. His plans included majoring in engineering and pre-med while his career goals were medicine, law, or politics.

Moore has been a leader throughout his years at Merrillville being president of his class, tennis team captain, and National Honor Society vice president, to name a few of his leadership roles.

He learned to balance activities with time management skills. Moore admitted that he was a normal guy who liked to do the stuff most teens enjoy like hanging out on weekends, going to the movies, bowling, and playing pool.

Many other schools in the area are doing away with this honor.

THE PRIZE

Snezana Obetkovski

LOOKING FORWARD

■ Sharon Segvich glances down at her speech as she addressed the Class of '97. She encouraged her classmates to make the most of their new chance for a bright future.





“

They do not sleep. On yonder cliffs, a grisly band, I see them sit.”

Thus were the Pirates always prepared to give their all. As with Gray's fictional work, the Pirates were never caught unprepared, but were always ready to seize the moment from an unwary opponent.

The Merrillville Pirate football team went into the second half of a game against Valparaiso and refused to admit that defeat was inevitable, even though they were down 14 to nothing. They went into the second half prepared to win. They were ready to capitalize on any Brikie mistake. They were overmatched and needed to step up their level of play. They did. They defeated one of the best teams in the state.

How? By looking inside themselves and coming up short before the game. By using that to give more of themselves in every play of the game. They simply found an inner core of effort and strength and harnessed it for an impressive win.

The boys swimming team also went into Hobart ready to swim a better team. The boys placed first in 6 of 12 events and finished 2nd and 3rd enough times to vanquish the rival Brikies. The win was made even more satisfying when the Brikies refused to admit defeat and complained bitterly after the meet. But the score was final. Merrillville won the 3 points in a 186 point meet.

This was achieved in the same way as the football teams upset. Except there was no inner core of effort and ability, but rather one of confidence. The team was used to losing. Over 40 losses in four years is a hard statistic to overcome. But, a new season and a surprise victory over formally state ranked Rensselaer gave the team the ability to call up enough confidence to overwhelm Hobart.

Every Merrillville team fought battles in the same way. The girls soccer team outmatched their opponents all year to finish with a 12 and 2 record. The volleyball team did the same to end up 22-10.

Merrillville consistently has teams that go to state. Boys's basketball, girls swimming, boy's tennis. This listwas giant for the past four years alone. Merrillville took great pride in its athletics.

As in Shakespeare's work, “They fought like brave men, long and well...They conquered... And the red field was won...” ■ **Chris Sikich**

Looking Deeper

SPORTS

OUT IN FRONT

Eugene Vivo and Mike Filan lead the pack in a Cross Country meet.



LEGGING IT

The boys jog around disbelievers daily

"The Boys Cross Country team was the best team in a few years," commented Coach Greg Pierson.

The lead runners were Brad Balcerak, Matt Johnston, Nate Hall, Eugene Vivo, Tony James, Lehman Best, and Tom Aliff. The team placed second in sectionals, third in regionals, and came in twentieth place at semi state.

Many people thought that cross country wasn't a really tough sport. However, there weren't many who wanted to run about two miles a day during training and in the season.

Training started in the early summer, and the season started in August running all the way through that cold month of November. Conditioning took a lot of sweat and too much time. The whole team had to strive and push each other to gain greater

heights to make it as far as they did. They improved by the mile.

The team had also grew up a lot over the years. "The team had many seniors this year," said Coach Greg Pierson. "We were all so used to each other cause we have had some of the same faces every year." "We were like a family. We basically grew up running wise together," commented Eugene Vivo.

Many of the team members were running together for all four years of their high school career. They said they had much fun and they hope that the teams will keep improving in the years to come.

This year's Most Valuable Player Award went to Eugene Vivo, and The Most Improved Player Award went to Brad Balcerak. Even though the whole team did really well, they could

only give out two awards.

The team also thought they didn't get the acknowledgment they deserved. They improved so much, and no one had anything to say about it. There was nothing about them on PNN and maybe two or three issues of the Mirror had anything to say about the scores. "We should have had more credit. No one seemed to notice our improvement," commented Eugene Vivo. We should have got more publicity, because after all we deserved it. And they did deserve it. They worked hard and ran, and ran for miles, and miles and no one even said "You did great," or, "You were good out there."

There was much to be gained out there and much to be done. Luckily, there are still some great runners left for next year.

■ Erin McDermott





Scoreboard

Merrillville 25
Griffith 35
Merrillville 17
Boone Grove 47
Merrillville 45
Portage 17
Merrillville 43
Valparaiso 19
Merrillville 17
Hobart 45

Merrillville 35
Chesterton 22
Merrillville 35
Crown Point 34
3rd out of 18 teams at Rennselaer
3rd at Hobart Invite
3rd at Gavit Invite
2nd in Sectionals
3rd in Regionals
20th at Semistate

FENCING ■

John Harms chugs along a fence at a meet.

MOVING ON UP ■

The boys try to move up through a pack of competing runners.



HOLDING ON

■ Kris Burke and Maria Toledo fight to keep the pace.

Scoreboard

Lowell			Laport/Valpo	
Andrean	L 47-63		Laporte	L 19-44
Griffith	W 63-67		Valprasio	L 17-46
Lowell	L 47-63		Highland Invite	8/16
Morton			CrPl/Chest.	
Boone Grove	W 15-40		Chesterton	L 47-16
Morton	W 21-34		Crown Point	38-19
Roosevelt		W 17-46	Clark Invite	4/10
Portage	L 46-17		DAC Meet	8th
Rensselaer Invite	N/A		Sectional	6/12
Hobart/Mich.City			Regionals	N/A
Hobart	L 26-29		Semi State	N/A
Mich.City	L 19-44		State	N/A
Lowell Invite	N/A			

Record 4-9

KICKING IT ■

Ruby Long tries to out-distance her closest opponent.

CROSS COUNTRY



OUT IN FRONT

Kris Burke struggles to keep her lead against her opponent. Cross country is often a lonely sport as runners break away from the pack.

RUNNING WILD

Girls use leg wrenching work to cross the finish line

Being on the girls cross country team was a lot of hard work. You had to be willing to practice almost every day all year long and run long distances. In the end a group of 13 girls made up the team.

All 13 girls worked as a team and pulled together to make it work. You couldn't complain about the conditions that you had to run in because it could brought down your time and place.

At each meet they ran 4,000 meters or 2.6 miles. At practices they ran short sprints and then six miles.

Even though the girls ran the best they could, injuries got to most of them. As the season went by the girls learned to cope with them and ended the season with great improvement.

Cross country was more of a conditioning sport than anything else. It kept the girls in shape for the other sports that they participated in.

"My first season as Merrillville Girls Cross Country Coach was challenging and enjoyable," said Coach Phil Hey. The season was challenging because the team competed in the tough Duneland Athletic Conference and competed against some of the top teams in the state.

It was enjoyable because of the improved work ethic, increased determination, and better practices and meet performances.

Hey thanked the seniors for all of their effort and improvement. The seniors also helped him reach his goal by increasing the number of members on the team. He explained to the underclass

members of the team what they had to do to become even better in the next season.

Hey also thanked the parents of the team members and Coach Popovich. The parents gave support to the team. They showed up at the meets and cheered the runners on as they came into sight. Popovich gave his experience as an athlete and his enthusiasm and concern for each member of the team.

Hey was proud to be coaching this year's Girls Cross Country team because they improved greatly and tried their best to cross the finish line first each and every time.

"Every one of the members are hard working athletes, and I credit them for it," Hey concluded.

Megan Shelton

MIND GAMES

■ Duray
Lawrence offers a bit of advice on the sideline. The biggest part of the game is teamwork, and picking each other up after they fall.



RUSHING IN

MHS Football finished another successful season

Few traditions at Merrillville High School were as honored or important as the football tradition. Every Friday the setting sun cast the shadow of Demaree Stadium over Merrillville High, and the lights over the field ignited a glow that could almost be seen from space. This is what it's all about, this was why we were here. For just a few hours on a chilly evening in autumn all the questions of existence were answered. For those lucky few who took the field that night the meaning of life was clear: Play Football.

And so the saga continued, the players and coaches, the parents and fans. There were those nights at Demaree Stadium when they seemed to come together as one. Those times when we were unbeatable. That was the power of a football game.

This year was no exception; this season was just as powerful and compelling as years before. It had its glorious triumphs and

it's crushing defeats; it's wins and it's losses; it's high and lows. That's what made it football. This year the thrill of the game packed in the fans more than ever before. The roar of the crowd drowned out even the clamor of the passing freight trains and rush-hour Interstate noise.

Opening the year with big wins against such conference powerhouses as Crown Point and Chesterton, the Pirates suffered a heartbreaking loss to Portage. Portage and Merrillville were both ranked high in the pre-season, and the game was a disappointment for both players and fans. The Homecoming game ended with a crushing defeat dealt to Michigan City. Next came Valpo, then Andrean, all falling beneath the angry sword of defeat that was the Pirates. This year marked the last of the "Battles of Broadway" with Andrean, and Coach Wimmer was happy to get his "braggin'

rights forever."

After defeating La Porte, losing to rival Hobart and defeating Lake Central in the first round of sectional play, the Pirates fell again to Portage and ended their season, 7-3.

"We had a fairly decent season but it could have been a lot better," remarked Craig Demaree, '98, "we improved a lot over previous seasons. But when it came to the fork in the road we should have taken it." Coach Artie Rogers believed much the same: "We had a fairly decent season. We'll miss the seniors. Now we'll be busy looking forward to next year."

Although to some the year seemed a disappointment, for the majority of fans and players it couldn't have been better. For those of us who won't be back next season, we can depart with pride, here in the home tradition, here in the home of the Pirates.

■ Chris Eastlee

Scoreboard

Pirates

Pirates	Rival Team
34	Crown Point
44	Chesterton
10	Portage
35	M.C. Rogers
28	Valparaiso
35	Andrean
7	Hobart
26	La Porte

SECTIONALS

21	Lake Central	14
13	Portage	35



SHORT STOP

■ Angelo Howard dives for a potential Michigan City receiver. The Pirates put on a show for Homecoming winning the game 35-2.

AIMING HIGH

■ Craig Demaree launches an aerial attack during the Michigan City game, as the offensive linemen stack up the Wolves defense.

Scoreboard

Kankakee Valley Invite	11/16
Chesterton	L 242-229
Bishop Noll	W 219-240
Marquette	L 248-200
Lowell	W 233-278
Kankakee Valley	W 216-219
Portage	L 231-202
Munster	L 226-217
Laporte	W 218-232
Michigan City	L 215-201
Crown Point	L 222-205
Andrean	L 219-175
Valparaiso	L 231-197
Laporte Invite	17/18
Hanover Central	W 223-234
Hobart	W Forfeit
Lake Central	L 222-198
Sectional	4/10

TEED OFF ■

Kelly Meeks gets ready to tee off during a late season match with Lake Central.

SWINGING OUT ■

Jamie Dobis takes a swing at the regional match. Dobis was the only Pirate to qualify for Regionals.





FRESH FACES

■ Alania Fazel tees off at Summertree Golf Course at a match against Lake Central. Fazel was one of the many freshman who made a valuable impact on the Pirates' squad in '96.

TEE TIME

Girls' Golf swung their way to success in '96.

Carting a bag full of golf clubs across nine holes was more strenuous than what it appeared to the naked eye.

"It is a game that takes a lot of practice and concentration. It is also a sport you can play throughout your life," replied Jamie Dobis, '97.

Although the squad, which posted a record of 6-9, graduated most of the regional qualifying team from last year, they managed to perform well with the help of a large Freshman Class.

Jamie Dobis, Carolina Procter, and Kelly Meeks, all '97, were the sole survivors of last year's squad. Newcomers Michele Uremovich and Alaina Fazel, both '00, helped composed the rest of the varsity lineup.

Their JV squad was lead by Robyn Johnson '99, who was in-

eligible to participate on varsity because of her transfer. Johnson and other golfers such as Kira Scheub, '99, and Nicole Brown, '00, have bright golf futures to look forward to at Merrillville.

The team barely missed advancing to the Kankakee Valley Regional with a fourth place finish at sectionals. While only three teams advanced out, the Lady Pirates were beaten out by state-ranked Andrean and Lake Central along with Crown Point. On a higher note, senior Jamie Dobis advanced out individually. Dobis then barely missed advancing on to the semi-state match the following weekend.

Overall, the majority of the team felt the season went well. Michele Uremovich '00, said "The team worked well together and we did better than people ex-

pected."

Senior Carolina Procter commented, "It was a fun season, but disappointing."

Senior Kelly Meeks added, "We continually improved as a team. At sectionals, we shot our best ever nine hole rounds."

The outlook for next year looked quite promising. Although they lost the top three scorers, a full JV lineup and several freshman looked like they were ready to step up. Procter's final thought on the team she was that leaving behind was that they would be successful.

"If Robyn Johnson is eligible, she will probably will be the top contributor. If Uremovich doesn't move, she'll probably be #2. All in all, they'll be pretty good."

■ By Stephanie Nicolini

S O C C E R

MOVING UP

The boy's soccer team takes a timeout during the Portage game. They went on to win the game, making them second in the Duneland Conference.



KICKIN' IT

The boys soccer team kicked a successful season

The boys soccer season started with a summer's worth of hard work. During pre-season practice, they ran endless laps around the field, did endless kicking drills, and seemingly endless strategy talks with Coach Tim Thompson. The '96' season was off to a great start. Then, a few days before their scheduled practices were to start, Thompson resigned as head coach.

During the first week of practice, the Athletic Department was rushing to find a new coach. Randy Conner and Tammy Deel were hired to mentor the team. In his first season as high school head coach, Conner raised the teams morale and coached them to a winning season.

Under the guidance of their new coaches, the team started the season off with wins over Lowell and LaPorte. Unfortunately, a 0-5 loss to Elkhart was disheartening.

With the season off to such a shaky start, the team pulled to-

gether and didn't let it get them down. Even though many starting players were benched because of injuries, the guys faced the challenge and ended with a record of 6-3-6. They also beat Portage to become second in the Duneland Conference. Altogether it was their best season in three years.

Portage was probably the best game of the season. Besides sectionals, it was the most important and most competitive." said Bob Zimnowoda, '97.

Though all players made contributions to the game, the players who stood out from the rest were Danny Ristevski, '97 and Chris Dimitroff, '97, who was named the team MVP. Other top contributors were David Rainey, '98, Johnny Miller, '97, Bob Zimnowoda '97, and Kayvon Kamari, '98.

The team was brought together by captains Dimitroff and Miller.

"Everyone played to the lim-

its of their abilities," commented Miller, '97.

Many other players contributed to the successful season. The underclassmen stepped up and made significant contributions to the game.

"I had a wicked throw in which became a goal in the sectional game," added Joel Sanchez, '99. However, because of the disappointing loss to Wheeler in the first round, the team did not make it out of sectionals.

The outlook for next year was bright, despite many of the key players graduating. Underclassmen from the successful Junior Varsity team will come up to fill in for the players who will be leaving. Many of the juniors who were key contributors this year will step up and be the teams leaders next year.

"We have a lot of talented upcoming seniors. Look for us next year," promised Sanchez.

■ Stacey Brown





Scoreboard

Lowell	W	5-0	Crown Point	W	6-4
Laporte	W	1-0	Munster	L	2-9
Elkhart	L	0-5	Hobart	W	4-3
Chesterton	L	1-4	Portage	W	2-1
Wheeler	T	1-1	Andrean	L	2-0
Valparaiso	T	0-0	Invitational		
Michigan City	W	4-0	Morton	L	4-5
Lake Central	T	2-2	Crown Point	L	1-3

BLOCKING OUT

■ Adam Vadas and Danny Risteski attempt to block a kick during the Valparaiso game.

AIMING TO SCORE ■

David Rainey kicks towards the goal. He played a key role in the boy's successful season.



HIGH KICKS

Jill Matusik tries to kick over the heads of the opposing team. Successfully doing so, her team was able to try and score a goal.

Scoreboard

Merrillville 8
Merrillville 6
Merrillville 3
Merrillville 6
Merrillville 0
Merrillville 9
Merrillville 5
Merrillville 8
Merrillville 2

Laporte 3
Chesterton 2
Valparaiso 2
Griffith 0
Michigan City 0
Andrean 2
Boone Grove 0
Crown Point 1
Hobart 1

Tournament
Merrillville 9
Andrean 2
Merrillville 5
Merrillville 1

Hammond Noll
Hammond Noll 0
Crown Point 1
Hobart 0
Andrean 2

Winner-Andrean

TOSSIN' IN

April Nichols tosses in the ball to her teammates.



**FRIENDS ■**

Kickin' back is one thing the girls like to do. As they play and practice for long hours the girls built long relationships.

MAIN GOAL

Lady Pirates kick their way to success

As anyone who was on a team knows, working together was one of the most important skills to have.

The girls learned this the hard way, when Andrean beat them during the season. Natalie Conner, '97, explained, "It was carelessness and just plain laziness that made us lose a game we wanted to win." Andrean had always been a game that Merrillville wanted to win.

The girls, however, got their act together for conferences. Becoming conference champions was one of the accomplishments the team made this year.

Sectionals were a disappointment, however. It was a great upset when they girls lost in the final round to Andrean. Many of the girls had the same goal to beat Andrean in sectionals to re-

venge their loss earlier in the season.

Their 14-3 record showed that the season was worth all of the hard practices. Kari Forester, '97, agreed saying "Overall we had a good season; we had a few tough loses, but still we pulled off to be conference champs with a good record."

Losing to Andrean, in the last round of sectionals made the girls see that the season game came back to haunt them in their last conference game.

The team's wins were not the only joys of the season. "This year the team developed many friendships," replied Mandy Sopko, '97.

Having dinners, pizza parties or watching movies made this girls' soccer team close. Another memory the team shared was going to Denny's for breakfast be-

fore the sectional game.

The girls captains were Mandy Sopko, '97, Jill Matusik, '98, and Elizabeth Tordoroska, '98. In addition to being a captain, Jill Matusik, '98, was the most valuable player in the regular season and in conferences.

Other key plays were made by Lena Cole, '97, Kari Forster, '97, Natalie Conner, '97, and Elizabeth Tordoroska, '98.

To some of the players the coach gave more than just skills, he gave them spirit. Rebekah Jusko agreed commenting, "He motivated us to get fired up during sectionals."

The coach seemed to do his job by making this year's girls proud of being conference champions and proud of their winning season.

■ By Jodi Yambrisak

BOYS TENNIS

RETURNING
■ Nestor Rivera swings hard on his return as the ball is hit his way by an opponent.



HARD HITTING

Boys tennis swung to a successful season

With a powerful quartet of seniors leading the way, the Boys Tennis team had a successful 18-3 season. Joe Moore, TJ Stochel, Jon Garcia, and Kevin Emmett, all '97, helped propel them throughout the season.

Some of the season highlights included a victory at the Tipton Tourney for the sixth time in a row. Another important tournament victory was the Highland Doubles Tournament. Other important regular season matches included close victories against Crown Point and Portage, and a 5-0 defeat of Andrean. MHS's only losses came against state ranked Valparaiso and Munster.

The post season highlights included another Merrillville Sectional Championship for the Pirates. In doing this the Pirates defeated Rensselaer, Gary Roosevelt, and Andrean. This victory qualified them for the Portage Regional.

At Regionals, the Pirates beat River Forest, and eventually lost again to Valparaiso.

Many other underclassmen contributed to the successful season. Jack DeHaven, Jeremy McClain, and Nestor Rivera, all '98, were key varsity players.

According to many of the players and coaches, each player was very dedicated to the sport. Garcia explained that teammates like Emmett made him proud. Garcia said, "Kevin dreams tennis, eats tennis and lives to play tennis."

Garcia also commented on the sport's level of difficulty. "Everyone thinks it's an easy sport. It's one of the hardest sports I've ever played; it must be the most frustrating too."

Stochel added, "Our hard work and determination really paid off."

Individual accomplishments were achieved by T.J. Stochel and

Joe Moore. Stochel was named All-Duneland Conference, second team All-State, and MHS team MVP. Stochel also had a season record of 20-2.

Moore was also named All-Duneland Conference, in addition to being named to Academic All-State. Moore was also named a finalist in the Wendy's Heisman Award.

"All in all it was a productive season. We accomplished more than most people thought we would," commented Moore. "Everyone worked hard."

Stochel thought, "It was an outstanding year. Many of our goals were accomplished."

Although the Pirates lose four seniors because of graduation, let alone two All-Conference players, the outlook for next year looks bright. The Pirates had three varsity players returning and a plethora of J.V. talent.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**

Scoreboard

Clark	Won	5-0
Highland	Won	5-0
Tipton Invite	Won	
Eastern	Won	5-0
Elwood	Won	4-1
Tipton	Won	5-0
Hobart	Won	5-0
Valparaiso	Lost	0-5
Crown Point	Won	3-2
LaPorte	Won	4-1
Highland Invite	Won	
Portage	Won	3-2
JV Invite		N/A
Michigan City	Won	3-2
Chesterton	Won	
Lowell	Won	4-1
Munster	Lost	1-4
Rensselaer	Won	5-0
Sectionals	Won	
Regionals	Lost	



ACE! ■
John Garcia prepares to serve an ace across the court.

SLAMMING
■ Kevin Emmett slams the ball back across the court as he moves to set up for his next hit



Scoreboard

Whiting won 15-13, 15-6
Lowell won 13-15, 15-6, 15-0
Lake Station won 15-6, 15-6
Griffith won 15-3, 15-1
Andrean lost 11-5, 15-5,
Lake Central won 15-4, 15-10
Hobart won 15-4, 15-11
Calumet won 15-2, 15-4
Portage won 15-10, 15-6
M.C. Invite placed 4th
Bishop Noll won 15-2, 15-6
Chesterton won 15-8, 15-10
Morton won 15-8, 15-7
Crown Point won 15-12, 15-4
Merr. Invite placed 4th
Valparaiso lost 15-5, 13-15
Michigan City lost 5-15, 6-15
Highland Invite placed 1st
Hebron won 17-15, 15-8
LaPorte lost 13-15, 9-15
Sectionals Won



JUST SPIKING ■

Samantha Dimoff jumps up to spike the ball during the game which the Lady Bucs dominated.

NET TIME ■

Leslie Malerich sets the ball for a fellow teammate to spike over the net. Malerich and her teammates were deadly at the net.



V O L L E Y B A L L



SETTING UP

■ Betsy Lucus gets ready to set the ball, while all the hitters get ready for the set.

SETTING GOALS

Volleyball gave teams a run for their money.

The volleyball team bumped, set and spiked their competition into the floorboards all season.

Leslie Malerich, '98, commented, "We did better than most people thought we would, but we know we could have done even better."

The team had only two goals in mind at the beginning of the season. They wanted to make it to semi-state and get to know each other's playing style better.

Unfortunately, the Lady Pirates lost to Andrean in regionals so they failed to make it to semi-state. However, they did learn to improve each other's play through familiarity.

Malerich continued, "We did begin to become more familiar with each other's play on the court. We were able to better our play because we knew each other."

The girls did have a successful season and a good run in the postseason. They went 13-4 and

captured the sectional crown for the fourth year in a row.

They won 12 of their 13 games while only losing to Andrean in that impressive stretch.

They won the Merrillville Tournament that included Crown Point, Hobart and Lake Station, and they were victorious in the Highland Invitational that included Hanover Central, Highland, and Lew Wallace.

They faced Hobart in the semifinal round of sectionals after breezing through the first games. Frink went 35-36 in setting and Dimoff went 8-8 in hitting and added five kills.

Malerich had eight kills of her own and an astounding 18 passes to defeat the hated Brickies.

Their final sectional game was against Lake Station. The Pirates swept them in two games with Zak leading the way. She had three kills, two aces and 10 passes.

They went against Andrean in

the first round of regionals after losing to that team twice during the season. Unfortunately, they lost again.

The key players on the team were captains Beth Zak, '97; Milerich; Sam Dimoff, Sara Frink, also '97; Deanna Goodman, '98; and Shannon Wells, '99.

The Pirates also had a number of players step up during the season.

Ashley Dobis, '98, made key plays in the later half of the season off of the bench. Leslie Newell, '00, also took her game up a notch in the tournaments. She played hesitantly, according to Milerich, in the season, but came on strong at the end of the year.

The Pirates had a great season and a successful postseason and should be able to improve on their accomplishments next year with a strong returning cast of athletes.

■ Chris Sikich

B A S K E T B A L L

BLOCKING OUT ■ Craig Demaree plays D' on an opponent from Crown Point. A three year starter in football, Demaree also plays basketball.



JAMMIN'

....slammin, and hangin, the essence of the game.

As far as most teams go, the team had a good year if they finished above .500.

The Pirate Boys' Basketball team exceeded these expectations.

They ended the season with a 21 and 3 record, were the undefeated conference champions for the third consecutive year, won their own holiday tournament for the sixth straight year, and had an 18 game winning streak, not to mention a .875 win/loss average. It was a year to remember, with one exception, no state title.

What it all came down to was: what made this season different from the rest?

For starters, it was a record setting year for the valiant Pirates, having one of the longest winning streaks in the school's history while also winning their fifth consecutive sectional title to add to the stack of honors bestowed

upon the team this year.

With the good, there was always the bad that every team had to overcome to be successful. And this year was no exception, with the loss of three prominent players due to rule violations and academic failure.

Head Coach Jim East remarked, "I think if our team could have stayed intact, we could have won the (State) Title."

But being a real team the Pirates just sucked it up.

One of the surprises of the team was the play of sophomore Eugene Wilson. Many veteran guards returned this year but Wilson's play brought him to the starting level.

East coached with the theme, "If we play hard and competitive, then the wins and losses should take care of themselves." This year's record showed his theory

worked well.

In the future, the Merrillville Pirates Basketball team should have years similar to '96-'97. With most of the team graduated, there will be a very young team playing in '97-'98. However, the JV and Freshmen teams both finished 19-1.

This was a season of good old fashioned Indiana Basketball that fans, players, and coaches enjoyed. And with the impressive record of the JV and Freshman teams, they should have at least a few more great seasons yet to come.

Coach Jim East said, "I was also very pleased with the student support this year. I was extremely happy with the full house against East Chicago Central, and with the Super Fans. It made it more fun for the spectators, players, and coaches."

■ Don DeLong



Scoreboard

Merrillville 58	S.B. Riley 60 L	
Merrillville 66	Bishop Knoll 42 W	
Merrillville 57	Andrean 55 W	
Merrillville 51	Valparaiso 40 W	
Merrillville 75	Gary Roosevelt 61 W	
<u>Merrillville Holiday Tournament</u>		
Merrillville 79	Benton Central 49 W	
Merrillville 81	Lake Central 46 W	
Merrillville 60	Highland 48 W	
Merrillville 66	Hobart 34 W	
Merrillville 52	Penn 46 W	
Merrillville 66	Lake Central 59 W	
Merrillville 62	Crown Point 61 W	
Sectionals		
Merrillville 73	Hammond Gavit 44 W	
Merrillville 69	La Porte 45 W	
Merrillville 52	Lowell 40 W	
Merrillville 59	Michigan City 49 W	
Merrillville 68	Munster 63 W	
Merrillville 57	Portage 49 W	
Merrillville 78	Chesterton 52 W	
Merrillville 55	East Chicago 64 L	
Districts		
Merrillville 76	River Forrest 61 W	
Merrillville 70	Crown Point 55 W	
Merrillville 48	Lake Central 40 W	

A GOOD START ■ *Jamaal Davis easily wins the tip-off to start the Crown Point game.*

TAKING OFFENSE ■

Jovan Blacknell waits for a pass from Jamaal Davis in a game against South Bend Riley.





IN TRAFFIC

■ Julie Klijajich looks to move around an opposing players in a home game.

Scoreboard

E.C. Central	won	51 - 35	Hammond High	won	53 - 25
Lake Central	lost	48 - 64	Lew Wallace	won	48 - 53
Laporte	won	55 - 41	Valparaiso	lost	38 - 51
Andrean	lost	49 - 52	Munster	lost	46 - 48
Chesterton	lost	41 - 48	Calumet	won	69 - 21
Portage	lost	36 - 53	Michigan City	lost	46 - 52
Highland	won	52 - 44	I (Hobart)	lost	37 - 47
McCutcheon Tourn.	placed 3rd				
Crown Point	lost	40 - 70			
Hobart	won	52 - 44			

FAST BREAK ■ Stephanie Valse takes the ball down the court during one of the Lady Pirates home games.





TRANSITION GAME

■ Stephanie Valse takes the ball down court with Nakia Clemons during a home game with the Highland Trojans.

IMPROVING

Distractions bring out better players.

Despite distractions within the team, the girls basketball team did pretty well and managed to pull off a record of 9-11. Unfortunately, two players were kicked off the team for not getting along, and one other player left for unknown reasons.

Nevertheless, the team had two surprising wins this year, one was at Mishawaka at the McCutchen Tournament where they came out winning one of their games for a 1 and 2 record at the tournament. Their first opponents in the tournament put them against the McCutchen Mavericks. Chrissy Dickerson, '97, scored 16 points and Shannon Wells, '99, scored six points.

The final game for the girls at the tournament put them against the Mishawaka Cavemen. They led in scoring the whole way. Christy Walsh led the team with 10 points.

Another surprise home game was with the Hobart Brickies. The team didn't have much

trouble, but still a surprise win with Shannon Wells scoring 16 points. They eventually won by a score of 47-37 over Hobart. Looking at the season, the girls beat the Calumet Warriors with a 48 point span. During the game, Chrissy Dickerson scored 19 points and Shannon Wells scored 18 points. The girls lost to the Valparaiso Vikings by a final score of 51 to 38. Shannon Wells lead the Pirates with 17 points and Nakia Clemons scored seven.

The girls also lost a very close game against Chesterton. Chrissy Dickerson was considered by Coach Mike Prichett as a team leader by stepping up and helping teammates understand what they were doing wrong. She was the captain of the team and started for Varsity along with Carolina Proctor, '97, and Kris Burke, '97. Nakia Clemons, '98, and improved throughout the season simply by working hard and should see more time next year. Shannon Wells, '99, was one

of many players who improved with every game during the season. "We worked hard to do what we needed to do," said Wells.

Coach Prichett believes Shannon Wells showed improvement throughout the season. Next season should look good for the lady pirates as returning players, such as Vicki Bish, '99, Julie Klajich, '99, Christy Walsh, '98, Janice Marler, '00, Shannon Wells, '99, and Kelly Pruess, '98, should be back to play again next season.

Assistant coach Lori Dust commented, "The kids coming back have enough experience to have a tremendous impact on next year's season, and I feel they can handle any situation presented to them."

Prichett said, "I had more fun that last part of the season than I've had in a long time." Coach Prichett had also remarked that the last six games of the season were probably the best games the team has had in the last three years.

■ Nick Farabaugh

Pom Pons

JUST DANCIN' ■

*Pom Captains
Krissy Malast
and Elisabeth
Black and the
dance team
perform a
routine for the
Homecoming
crowd.*



DANCING STARS

Pom Pons danced around their competition

The season proved to be successful for the MHS poms in many aspects.

Aside from the weekend performances at football and basketball games, the MHS poms also had a strong competition season. The poms also were given the honor of participating at the Liberty Bowl both in the parade and during half-time with the band.

"All in all, the season was a success," commented Krissy Malast, '97. "We keep improving more every year, and this year it definitely showed."

The team's captains were seniors Elisabeth Black and Krissy Malast. They led the team through an exciting and impressive season.

Anyone watching the Poms couldn't help but notice they had a wider range of routines that left audience stunned. The girls were extremely competent dancers who knew how to work together.

The poms had an exciting season. It was kicked off by a week long camp at St. Mary's for UDA

camp. At camp, the poms received the "spirit stick" and a bid to nationals.

Because of the short time between nationals and state, the poms opted not to go this year. Another high point in the season was the trip to Tennessee and participation in the Liberty Bowl.

Jennifer Mola, '99, commented, "To be honest I know a lot of us were pretty disappointed by the Bowl itself. Of course, we were excited to perform during half-time, until a couple days before the trip we found out that we had to do flags! That would have been no big deal if we had known and had more practice."

The big highlight for the squad was the Lake Central competition. Both squads finished strong, with J.V. taking first in both the pom and dance categories, and Varsity taking second in both.

The Varsity squad also returned home as the Grand Champion of the competition for outscoring all of the other teams

competing. It was the first year the award had been given out.

The team was far from surprised at their victory. They practiced gruellingly for it throughout the season.

Diana Hammer, '98 explained, "We practiced really hard, and we were finally prepared ahead of time for games so it was a breeze."

Next came the state competition, which proved to be the most emotional and exciting aspect of the year. They took seventh in poms and sixth in dance.

The squad was helped out emotionally by the "Dance Superfans." According to Kelly Keilman '98, "I think that they helped us a lot and gave us tons of energy and motivation."

Hammer finished, "We'll lose four key varsity members, but there is a lot of talent from JV and from incoming students. I think we'll have a strong competitive squad for next year."

■ **Stephanie Nicolini, Stacey Brown and Chris Sikich**

BALANCE ■ In addition to performing routines like this one at halftime of home football and basketball games, the dance team also performed at halftime of the Liberty Bowl.



RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS ■ The highlight of the season was taking Grand Champion at the Lake Central competition.

HANDS UP ■ Patty Underwood performs a routine at the Homecoming game. The dance team has taken on a new look in the last few years.



Scoreboard

MICHIGAN CITY W 100.90-81.22

LOWELL W 98.05-71.40

HOBART L 98.375-104.30

FT. WAYNE CONCORDIA 5th

LAPORTE W 103.375-95.59

PORTAGE 102.00-104.30

CHESTERTON L 97.625-107.47

VALARASIO L 101.10-110.27

CROWN POINT W 102.90-82.10

OFFERING ADVICE ■ Coach Diane Roberts keeps an eye on a gymnast who is warming up for a meet. Roberts always told her girls never to give up and always go on.

IT'S A STICK ■ Lisa Fuster finishes her uneven bars routine with a smile and a good landing as Coach Bill Roberts looks on.



**GOING UP**

■ *Elena Malave plants her hands on the horse as she competes in the vault. Malave returns to competition after being injured most of last year.*

FLEXIBILITY

They needed to be the most flexible girls in school to compete.

Gymnastics was more than just tumbling around on the floor.

Gymnastics required strength, endurance, and a great mental attitude.

Gymnastics was known for working every muscle in the entire body. Many people had a problem believing that gymnastics was the sport that required the most strength and flexibility; however, this was the sport to be in to get a full body workout.

Gymnasts needed to be very flexible. This meant the guys too! (Although there are not any guys on our team.) Guys need to be flexible for such sports as football and wrestling so this is a good way to keep in shape and become better in other sports.

Another thing missing from the team this year was the fans. In past years, the fans had been wild, but because of injuries and the loss of people they are gone.

This year's team seemed to be all new and unheard of to the fans. But by the end of the year, that was not the case.

The team goal was to make it to the Advanced Regional for which only the top three qualify. The girls came in fourth, but they were still pleased with their season.

At the Duneland Athletic Conference Meet the Lady Pirates came in fourth, also.

Elena Malave, '98, said, "This year was tough because of the loss of valuable people, but I think the incoming freshmen did great for their first year."

For Lisa Fastro her freshman year was an accomplishment that many athletes do not get the chance to have. She was the only Merrillville girl to make it to Indianapolis.

Fastro, '00, proudly commented, "I was pleased with my

performance, and it was so exciting to be there with all those talented people."

Fastro came in third place in the vault division at the state meet.

During the season Fastro explained, "Coach (Diane) Roberts, was always there to raise our spirits."

When the team was feeling down everyone knew that Roberts would give them the mental strength to bring themselves back up.

Along with having practices, the girls got together once in awhile to eat at Olive Garden. For Christmas they threw a party where the underclassman had to dress like angels.

The upperclassmen had all gone through this and were now happy to pass it on to the new underclassmen.

■ **Jodi Yambrisak**

S W I M M I N G

MAKING HISTORY ■

boys team showed their support for the girls team at sectionals. This was the first time in the history of Indiana swimming where boys and girls swam a combined season.



WET AND WILD

Boys swimming and diving make quite a splash

Hours of dedication, hard work and love for the sport was what it took to be a part of the 1996-1997 Boys Swimming and Diving Team. With practices at 5 A.M. and up to three practices a day during Christmas break, finishing the season was a reward in itself.

The 96-97 season proved to be the most positive in years, third year head coach Bryon Angerman and the Pirates racked up a record of 5-8. Wins were achieved over Rensselaer, Michigan City, Lowell, Hobart, and Hammond Gavit. Season highlights also included a fifth place conference showing as a team. At sectionals, the Pirates finished third to rival Crown Point, but only by a mere four points.

The Pirates were led by captain Matt Pavlovich, '98. Pavlovich was also Duneland conference champion, sectional runner-up, and team MVP. Other key contributors were captain Chris Sikich, '97, Jake Tellado, '98, and captain Doug Reeves, '98. Divers Ali Santos, '98, and Brandon

Hoffman, '98, both regional qualifiers under the direction of head diving coach Sean McCarthy, helped pave the way for divers. According to Reeves, "Everybody that finished the season was a key contributor." John Rooda, '98, also added, "Everybody on the team contributed, whether it was by scoring points or cheering others on."

The Pirates also had to adjust to change during the 1996-1997 season. For the first time in the history of IHSAA, Girls Swimming and Diving was also swam in the winter. This posed many advantages and disadvantages. Some of the disadvantages were the crowding of the pools and the fact that the meets took longer. Some advantages were the support from the girls team and the faster girls and boys being able to practice together. Sikich felt, "Practicing with the girls had advantages, but it took away from the boys team camaraderie. We had to give up water polo, but there were twenty or more people cheering for us at meets." Another

change for the Pirates was the addition of a new assistant coach, Ryan Pitcock. Pavlovich commented, "Coach Pitcock was an excellent addition to the team. He was a great coach and an excellent motivator."

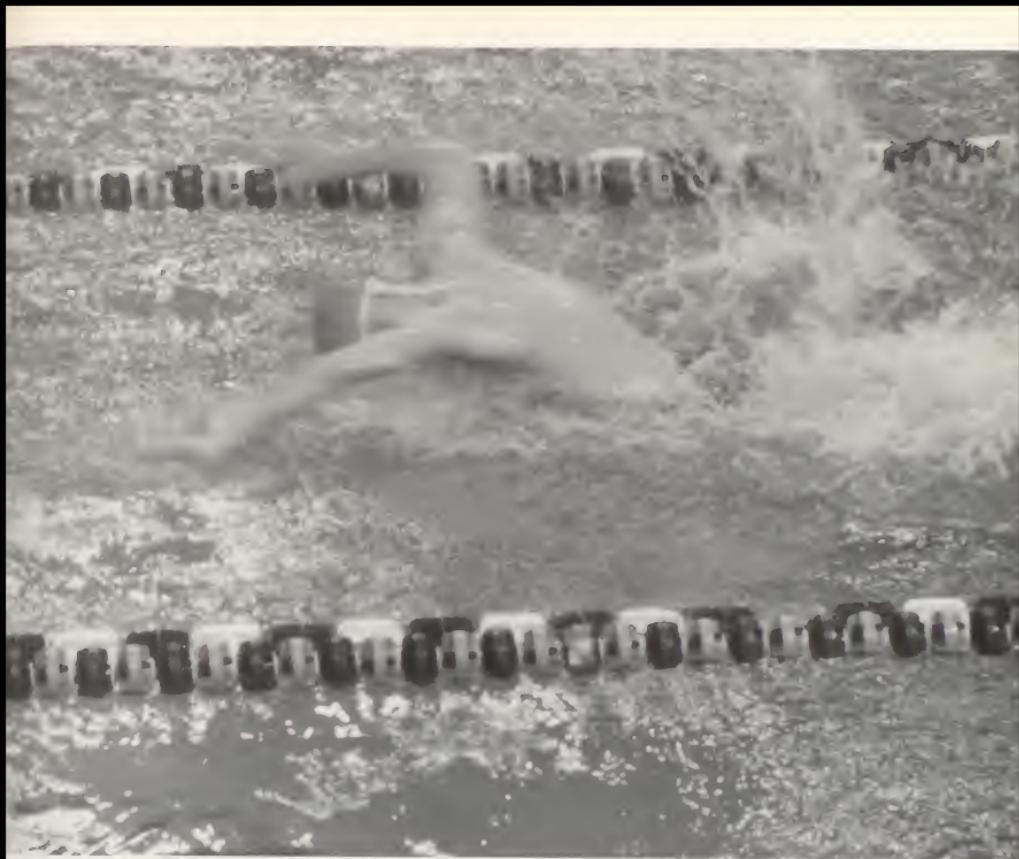
Sikich was also a big fan of the addition of Pitcock. Sikich commented, "Coach Pitcock was the key to our success. He was in charge of ninety percent of our practices and motivated the team to swim every yard as hard as possible."

The outlook for the Pirates next year looked to be promising although five seniors were lost to graduation. A crop of freshman should help replace the graduated talent.

Pavlovich's final thoughts on the season were, "I felt the season started off a little shaky. However, it seemed to gel quickly. The team united together and swam some really great races and meets. A lot of new kids stepped it up and made drastic improvements."

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**





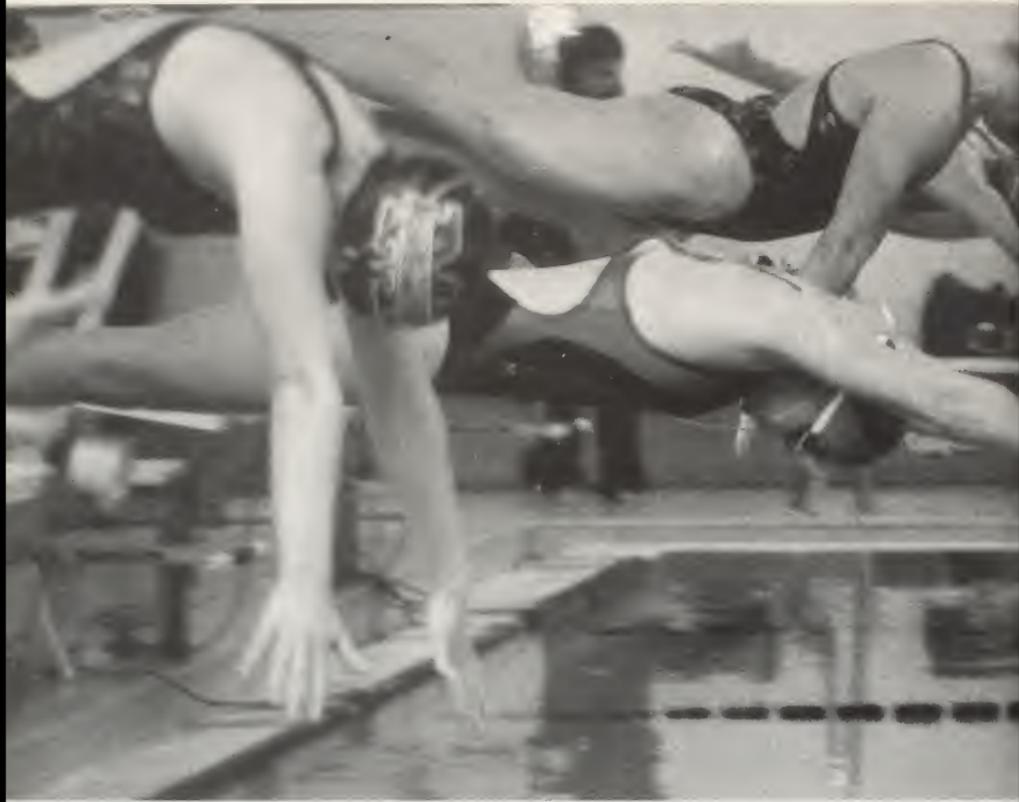
Scoreboard

Portage	L	71-115	Laporte	L	87-99
Rensselear	W	102-84	Munster	L	58-127
Hobart	W	94-89	Potage Diving Invite	First	
Highland	L	75-111	Duneland Conference	Fifth	
Crown Point	L	82-104	Gavit	W	114-63
Lake Central	L	45-132	Lowell	W	108-77
Laf. Jefferson	L	74-112	Chesterton	L	49-120
Valparaiso	L	82-104	Sectionals		
Mich. City	W	113-59		Third	

FLYING ALONG ■

Matt Pavlovich swims to victory in the 100 butterfly. Pavlovich was also named all-Duneland Conference.

A STRONG START ■ Doug Reeves explodes off the block for the 50 free. Reeves was part of the strong class returning for the 1997-98 season.



EXPLOSIVE START ■

Stephanie Nicolini, launched herself off of the starting block, and rose well above her competitors before diving into the water.

Lowell
Chesterton
Portage
Rensselaer
Hobart
Highland
Crown Pointt
Lake Central

Scoreboard

Laf. Jeff
Valparaiso
Michigan City
Duneland Athletic Congerence
Laporte
Munster
IHSAASectionals

WAITING TO TOUCH ■ Jen Sanders glided through the water in the 100 yard backstroke. Sanders placed seventh in the back at sectionals.



SWIMMING



THREE SPORT ATHLETE ■

Leslie Malerich gasped for breath in the 100 yard breaststroke at a dual meet. Malerich was one of the top scorers for the Pirates.

PART THE WAVES

The Pirates stayed in a sinking ship to defeat rival Crown Point.

The girls swim team walked into this season with goals so lofty that a bystander would assume they had drafted Moses to part the waves while anchoring their relays.

The team only had three of these goals in mind while swimming grueling practices twice a day for four months. They wanted to break a record, get somebody down to state, and finally beat team rival and reigning sectional champion Crown Point.

Team Captain Stephanie Nicolini, '97, explained, "We've always been rivals. They've been the only thing standing between us and a sectional title while in the CP sectional."

The girls seemed in danger of losing this goal in their first encounter with this rival. Crown Point and Merrillville went head to head in a meet early on in the season with bragging rights up for grabs. It appeared the Pirates were in a sinking ship, but they stole victory by finishing the meet strong and winning the last relay.

Unfortunately, the Pirates were unable to defeat CP at the Duneland Conference meet and lost by a wide margin, possibly because one of their three relays was disqualified and only one of the three varsity divers was able to compete.

Nicolini remarked, "It wasn't really a big deal. A couple things didn't go our way."

Nonetheless, the Pirates headed into Sectionals as near 70 point underdogs. This was where they would have to prove themselves. Swimming icon Lake Central had just been added to the meet, and it appeared the Pirates would finish third behind LC and CP.

This was also the last chance to break a record and the only chance to go to state. Event winners and time qualifiers were the only swimmers who got to Indianapolis. Which was to say that only event winners go down as usually they didn't even make the qualifying time.

The Pirates were led by Coach Bryon Angerman, Diving Coach

Sean McCarthy, Assistant Coach Mary Simmons and Captains Nicolini and April Pieroni, '97.

Merrillville completely dominated Crown Point at the meet. The 200 Medley relay of Stephanie Badylak, '98, Maryann Green, '00', Nicolini and Leslie Malerich, '98, shattered the old Merrillville relay record by nearly two seconds.

The relay of Malerich, Green, Pieroni and Nicolini broke the 200 freestyle relay record by more than a second.

In swimming, this is a huge margin as one hundredth of a second can separate first from second.

Although none of the Pirates made it to state they did demolish CP on their way to a second place finish. Angerman was named Coach of the Year in honor of their accomplishment.

Pieroni finished, "It was great. Especially knowing that if LC had not been added to our sectional we could have been sectional champs."

■ **Chris Sikich**

W R E S T L I N G

STAND IT UP ■ Ryan Francis attempts to move from his base to his feet. Francis was a key wrestler for the Pirates.



MAT MASTERS

Pirates dominate area wrestling

Dedication and perseverance were two words that described the 96-97 Merrillville wrestling season. Returning only one senior and guided by new head coach, Mark Rosenbalm, no one knew quite what to expect.

Rosenbalm returned to Merrillville after head coach Chris Joll left to teach and coach at Cherterton High School. Rosenbalm was previously an assistant coach here, but had left to be the head Coach at Martinsville. When the Merrillville position opened up, Rosenbalm, a Merrillville graduate, decided to return home to coach.

Despite the young team, everyone worked together and ended the regular season with an impressive record of 13 wins, 3 losses. The teams goals were to make it down to state, and beat top ranked Portage, but, unfortunately, they did neither.

Despite this short falling, everyone agreed that the season was a success. They did have several

outstanding team accomplishments, including being the Merrillville Invite Champs, Twin Lakes Invitational Champs, Conference runner-ups and also the Martinsville Holiday Classic runner-ups.

The Merrillville Invite was a crucial meet for the team. It was not only the first tournament that they won over the season, but it was also Rosenbalm's birthday.

Though the team did not qualify for state, two of the guys did go down to wrestle at Market Square Arena. Jason Tabor '98, took fourth in the 140 pound weight class and Montell Pace, '97, third in the 160 pound weight class. Pace also was named to the all-state wrestling team, and qualified for the High School Nationals.

Rosenbalm's first priority for the season was to have the team working together as one.

"The team is only as strong as the weakest link," explained Rosenbalm. "On this team, there

were no weak links."

The team proved their togetherness at the Twin Lakes Invitational. There were sixteen teams participating, and Merrillville was in second place going into the final round. The team pulled together, supported each other and didn't lose any of their final matches. They ended up winning nineteen of their twenty matches and clinched the team title of the tournament.

"Next year should be our season!" enthused Rosenbalm. They only graduate one senior. He felt that if the team worked out and wrestled freestyle over the summer the team will be even stronger next year.

"The 96-97 season was just a warm up for what's to come next year. That goes for the team as well as myself individually," said Tabor.

The positive attitudes, combined with the returning talent will no doubt make next season a winner.

■ Stacey Brown



Scoreboard

Portage	L	29-42
Crown Point	W	36-22
Chesterton	W	52-10
Michigan City	W	42-30
Hobart	W	39-37
Laporte	W	42-32
Thanksgiving Duals -		
Lafayette Harrison	W	44-30
Mishawaka	L	31-37
Benton Central	W	50-22
Lawrence North	W	34-33
Lake Station	W	63-16
Merrillville Super Duals-		
Valparaiso	W	39-28
Calumet	W	37-28
Northwood	W	40-24
Penn	L	14-50
Hammond High	W	39-37
Merrillville Invite	-	Team Champs
Twin Lakes Invitational-	Team Champs	
Martinsville Holiday Classic-		
Team Runner Ups		
DAC - Team Runner ups		
Total Record 13-3		



TAKE DOWN ■

Jason Tabor was taken down at the Merrillville Invitational. Tabor went on to take fourth in his weight class at the state meet.

WAITING TO SHOOT ■

Jay Lacy prepared to take down his opponent at the Merrillville Invitational. Merrillville went on to become team champions.

Scoreboard

Beone Grove	10-2
E.C. Central	3-2
Valparaiso	9-1
Michigan City	0-6
Evanston	6-16
Evanston	7-8
Chesterton	5-6
Hobart	11-5
Portage	2-5
Laporte	2-9
Crown Point	7-2
Hammond Clark	5-4
Valparaiso	11-12
Michigan City	2-5
Chesterton	6-13
Rensselaer	14-2
Hobart	4-11
Portage	0-4
Highland	5-9
Laporte	1-7
Crown Point	8-4
Lake Central	0-3
Bishop Noll	3-8
Munster	1-11
Hanover Central	5-3
Lake Station	6-3
Hobart	8-4
Hammond Gavit	7-0
Andrean	1-9



YOU'RE OUT ■

First baseman Marc Bruner tags out the runner. Bruner was one of the players remaining from last year's state runner-up team.

BEATING IT OUT ■

Heading for first, the batter watches to see if his pop-up will be caught. The Pirates hatted their way into the Regional Finals this year.



**STRIKE
ONE ■**

The batter follows through with his swing as he attempts to get a hit. The Pirates beat Hobart to win the Sectional title. They lost to Andrean in the final game of Regionals.

BATTER UP

Pirate Baseball looks to be on top this year

They were just trading places. Last year the Bucs ended the season for the Andrean 59ers in Regional play on their road to becoming state runner-up.

But this year, the state runner-up 59ers clipped the Pirates' wings in Regional finals 9-1.

Earlier in the day the Pirates, who ended the season with a 13-16 record, had knocked off Hammond Gavit 7-0 to qualify for the finals.

"We played the way we had hoped to play all season; good defense and some timely hitting," coach Fenton Macke said after his team surprised Gavit.

"We came here to win, not just show up."

Quentin Allen and Sam Berkman, both '97, each drove in two runs, and Neal Fedak, '97, had a pair of hits in the victory.

The week before Merrillville defeated Hobart 8-4 to earn the right to play Gavit.

Eric Xidis, '98, picked a good

time for his best game of the season.

"Xidis pitched really strong," commented Macke. "He had some good velocity. He was out in front of his hitters."

Xidis held the Brickies to six hits in six innings before he tired in the seventh. Hobart scored three times in the seventh before Xidis was able to nail down the win.

"He pitched the seventh inning on guts," Macke said.

Until the fifth inning, Xidis was in a pitching duel with Hobart's Corey Ochall, but the Pirates batted around with the help of five walks.

Jeff Nelson's, '98, single to left led off the four run inning after he tried unsuccessfully to bunt.

Nelson explained, "I messed up the bunt so I had to do something to get the guy (Joe Giordano, '97) into scoring position."

He added, "I was looking for the curve and he (Ochall) hung

one in there."

Merrillville had beaten Lake Station 6-3 earlier in the day in the Sectional semifinals.

Sam Berkman and Josh Francis each got two hits and two RBIs to pace the Pirates. Kevin Emmett, '97, also added two hits.

The team had a tough year, falling below .500.

However, this was a rebuilding year after losing eight starters from last year's state runner-up team to graduation.

Nevertheless, the season was not without high points. Assistant coach Mike Krutz believed that one of the biggest games was the second game with Crown Point because the team ended a four game losing streak. They beat the Bulldogs 8-4.

As for the J.V. team, they ended the year with an 11-9 record. Their high point was upsetting powerhouse LaPorte, who were 23-0 at the time.

■ **Nick Farabaugh**

GOLF

WHERE IS IT GOING? ■

A golfer watches to see where his ball is going to land. Hours of practice during the off season got the team off to a strong start.



SWINGIN'

Off season play pays off for the team

The off season could be measured in holes played and buckets of balls hit at the driving range. It turned out to be time well spent however.

According to Coach Max Hutchison, "The team this year has improved since last season simply because of hard work during the off season."

The biggest early season foe the team had was the weather. The downpours caused practice to be canceled or move indoors as the area had one of the coldest, rainiest springs on record.

By the time the cold, rainy

weather cleared, and the team hit the greens in earnest, they were off to a strong start. They started out by defeating Griffith 164-170. Then they went on to play Michigan City and Portage.

Hutchison pointed out, "We had a great win over Andrean."

The team was young this year, with only one senior, Dave Keene, on board the varsity.

Nevertheless, there was a strong core of juniors including veterans Matt Warus, P.J. Montoleone, Jack DeHaven, Dennis Frizzell, Brandon Hoffman, and Doug Reeves.

Sophomores Andy Draper, Ryan Marovich, and Jeremy Trimble also added to the team.

Freshmen Brian Sur, Zach Cook, and Bill Connelly contributed as well.

However, Keene, McMullin and Warus were the only returning varsity players from the previous year.

Sadly, the end of the season was the end of the line for Hutchison who retired from Merrillville Community School Corporation. Next spring the team will have a new coach.

■ Nick Farabaugh

WILLING IT TO DROP ■ A member of the Merrillville golf team waits to see if the ball is going to drop to give him a birdie.



JUST A TAP ■

A member of the golf team lines up his putt. This was the last season for golf coach Max Hutchison who retired from Merrillville Community School Corporation at the end of the season.

FINISHING

■ A golfer follows through with his swing as he tries to get on the green. The team holds its home meets at Broadmoor Golf Club.





YOU'RE OUT! First baseman Stacey Bish makes the put out in Sectional play with Griffith. The Lady Pirates went on to win the game 2-1 to start their trek to the State Championship.

Scoreboard

Valparaiso	0-2	Lake Central	2-3
Michigan City	11-0	Lafayette Harrison	1-0
Andreas	3-1	LaPorte	9-6
Bishop Noll	4-2	Crown Point	8-2
Chesterton	1-0	Shenandoah	2-1
Boone Grove	1-4	Lake Central	2-0
Hobart	1-0	Highland	1-0
LaPorte	5-0	South Central	10-8
Highland	6-0	Lowell	2-8
Crown Point	1-0	Griffith (Sectional)	2-1
Valparaiso	1-0	Highland (Sectional)	4-2
Portage	1-6	Lowell (Regional)	1-0 9 innings
Michigan City	7-8	Munster (Regional)	2-0
Chesterton	2-1	Penn (Semistate)	8-1
Hobart	1-0	Portage (Semistate)	1-0
Munster	1-0	Ft. Wayne Northrup (Finals)	4-1
Portage	1-3	Carmel (Finals)	1-0

BATTER UP ■ Leslie Malarich winds up to deliver her 65-70 mile per hour pitch. Malarich was named *Times* softball Player of the Year for her part in the state championship season.



**STEALING SECOND ■**

Carolina Procter steals second as the team struggles to get a run. The team won 11 games by a score of 1-0 including the state championship game where Procter won the mental attitude award.

DEFENSE

The Pirates play defense as they struggle for runs

It wasn't a high scoring season. In fact the Lady Bucs were known more for their pitching and their defense than for their bats.

In the end it didn't matter because the Lady Pirates scored the runs that counted.

Early season injuries played a part. Carolina Procter, '97, Leslie Malarich, '98, and Deanna Goodman, '99, all fought injuries and the bats stayed quiet.

Sportswriters started to say "Merrillville is Malarich." Having Leslie Malarich, '98, the best pitcher in the state, was great, but it also caused problems. Players started snapping at each other in frustration.

A big part of the hitting and better attitudes came from Procter. After Procter returned so did the hitting.

Coach Bob Bergeson explained, "Carolina is an immense part of this team. Leslie is an immense part of this team. I don't know who's bigger. When she

came back from her injuries, we just got this feeling that we'd be all right."

However at mid-season when the Pirates started to roll few people other than the Pirate faithful paid attention.

The Pirates weren't supposed to do anything. Lake Central was supposed to win it all. Portage was considered number two in the area leaving the Pirates to fall in at number three.

Two regular season losses to Portage, 1-6 and 1-3, didn't help.

A close 2-3 loss to Lake Central and then finally a 2-0 win over the Indians at the Merrillville Invitational did little to wake up the nonbelievers.

It wasn't until the Bucs finally defeated Portage 1-0 to win Semistate that people decided to pay attention.

"It feels good to know we did this as a team and finally got over the hump," Malarich said following the game. "We've been so

close before and finally it is our turn to shine."

In addition to the pitching of Malarich, the Pirates' defense was a big part of the reason for the success of their season. They won 11 games by a score of 1-0 including the State Championship.

"It is nerve-racking because you know at any time two hits could be the difference in the game," said Procter. "But, every time you win a close game you get stronger and more confident."

The infield of first baseman Stacey Bish, second baseman Beth Zak, shortstop Chrissy Dickerson, and third baseman Kris Burke, all '97, got the job done consistently.

They were backed up by outfielders Procter, Goodman, and Sarah Frink.

Together the Pirate defense committed only 37 errors in 31 games. Without the defense, the Pirates would not have won the state finals.

IT'S AN ACE ■ A
tennis player
watches to see if
her serve was
fair. Amanda
Valse, Danielle
Moore, and
Kristina Gros
played singles.
Stephanie Valse
and Dene
Stath played
number one
doubles while
Samantha
Dimoff and
Angela Bertolo
played number
two doubles.



NO FAULT

Young team meets challenges for 10-2 season

From March 10 to May 24, the girls varsity tennis team showed everyone what they were made of.

The weather was a force for the team to battle early in the season. At their Lake Central match, the team had to play in high winds and freezing temperatures.

"Our team went through a tough six weeks of preseason conditioning," said Coach Dave Zimmerman.

He added, "This year's team was better than last year's despite youth; both were very good. I expected a good team."

A good team was what he received, ending their season with a 10-2 record.

Zimmerman said, "LaPorte is the Duneland favorite, and we're trying to just stay competitive with them. It's difficult to win at their site for some reason."

He continued to explain goals

for the season, "We have to overcome some concentration problems and execute when the going gets tough."

Zimmerman added, "Our greatest competition comes from LaPorte, Crown Point, Andrean, and other ranked teams in the state."

The girls took second place in the Tipton Tournament on Saturday, April 19. They also placed fourth in the Frankfort Tournament on Saturday, May 17, and placed first in the Merrillville Tournament that was held on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3.

Unfortunately, on May 23, the girls were defeated by Andrean on the second day of sectionals.

The team was very young, consisting of eight freshmen, seven sophomores, two juniors, and three seniors.

It was a good thing considering during prom weekend the

Frankfort Tournament was held. Zimmerman had to substitute four junior varsity players into the varsity tournament. The JV players did a terrific job.

According to Zimmerman, the JV team was a pleasant surprise. They ended the year with a record of 9-2. They also won the Merrillville JV Tournament even without four of their top players who were playing in the Frankfort Tournament with the varsity because of prom weekend.

"I was very impressed with Kim Lux, '99, and Liz Bobos, '98, in particular as they have demonstrated varsity caliber ability," said Zimmerman.

Lux and Bobos earned a chance to challenge Samantha Dimoff and Angela Bertolo for the right to play second seed doubles at sectionals.

■ Nikki Blondeel

Scoreboard

Lake Central	5-0
Andrean	3-2
Tipton Tourn.	2nd
Lowell	4-1
Highland	4-1
Michigan City	3-2
Laporte	2-3
Merrillville Tourn.	1st
Valparaiso	3-2
Portage	5-0
Lake Station	4-1
Chesterton	4-1
Hobart	5-0
Frankfort Tourn.	4th
Crown Point	1-4
Sect. (Hobart)	5-0
Sect. (Andrean)	1-4



LYING IN WAIT ■ A tennis player returns a volley in a home match. Although most of the team was young the team ended the season with a 10-2 record.

WATCH THE SERVE ■ A tennis player turns to the fence to listen to advice from Coach Dave Zimmerman. Zimmerman has coached the team for 11 years.

Scoreboard

OUTDOOR SEASON

Merrillville	37
Portage	78
Michigan City	52
Lew Wallace Invite	2nd
Merrillville	79
Hobart	39
Crown Point	47
Merrillville	62
Valparasio	70
Merrillville	73
Laporte	35
Chesterton	65
DAC Meet	4th
Sectionals	2nd



UP AND OVER ■ Tom Aliff competes in the 300 meter hurdles at Sectionals. Aliff was also a Regional qualifier in the event.

A MIGHTY THROW ■ Dorin Derrico prepares to throw the discus at the Dunesland Conference Meet. Derrico had the opportunity to step up this year because of the graduation of last year's talented throwers.





JOHN
Harms and
Brad Balcerak,
both '97, were
congradulated
by teammates
Lehman Best
and Eugene
Vivo, also both
'97. Theses were
just some of the
valuable atheletes
the team lost
due to graduation.

WILL TO WIN

Boys Track and Field finished the season in a winning style.

"Winning, and watching my teammates win."

That was what Lehman Best, '97, described as the highlights of the Boys Track and Field season this year.

The Pirates had a successful season that included highlights such as being Sectional and Lew Wallace Invitational runners-up.

At the Lew Wallace Invite, the 4x800 relay team of Eugene Vivo, Mike Filan, John Harms, all '97, and Ron Bolden, '98, set a new meet record.

Another important meet for the Pirates was the Boilermaker Relay, a meet held over a two week span that included some of the top athletes in the state, as well as the nation.

The Pirates also advanced several members to Regionals. From there, several runners advanced on to the State Finals.

Montell Pace, '97, qualified for state individually in the 100 meter dash by meeting the state

qualifying time. The 4x400 meter relay team of Pace, Vivo, Ma'Rion Anderson, and Best, all '97, also qualified for the state finals.

Key contributors this year for the Pirates were mainly the seniors. Tom Aliff, Ma'Rion Anderson, Brad Balcerack, Lehman Best, Jovan Blacknell, Mike Filan, John Harms, Paul Moody, Montell Pace, and Eugene Vivo, all '97, were key members as well as team leaders.

Vivo remarked, "This was the most fun track season, ever. The seniors came together and kicked butt, and we had some first year seniors do really well. Our younger guys worked so hard. All I have is good thoughts and memories about this team."

One of those memories shared by Vivo and fellow teammate Aliff occurred at the Portage meet. It was when Portage's 4x400 relay team had a 50 meter head start on Merrillville. Vivo,

the anchor for the Pirates caught up to Portage on the straight away, won, and then passed out on the track.

All Vivo had to say about his feat was, "That was awesome."

With the departure of last year's head coach, Ken Coudret, Jim Johnston stepped up as the head coach this year. He was assisted by Jeff Clinkenbeard and student teacher Jimm Stack.

Nik Ristevski, '98, key pole-vaulter for the Pirates, commented, "We were thankful for the great coaching staff we had helping us through the season."

Although the Pirates graduate a dozen or so seniors off the team this year, Ristevski's outlook for next year still appeared positive.

"Next year's team will be a young team but still very experienced," commented Ristevski. "People will have to step up and take large roles. We should do very well as long as we keep on practicing hard."

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



MAKING THE EXCHANGE

Ruby Long
ends her leg of
the relay by
handing off the
baton. This
was the third
year that Long
has run relays
for the team.



STRIDING ON

Injuries plague a promising season

Overcoming injuries, hardwork, and positive mental attitudes...that's what the Girls' Track and Field team was about.

Coach Joe Atria said that the team had more members out this year than ever before. He added, "Several excellent athletes returned from last year's team, and several girls with great talent were new to the team this year."

Although the team was one of the largest in years, it was a year plagued by injuries. What made some of the injuries worse for the team was the fact that many of the key members were the ones injured. Heather Luedtke, Jill Theobald, and Jessica Vargas, all '97, were just some of those who were injured.

Although Luedtke and Theobald were able to finish the season, Vargas was unable to, but played an important role with her support and wisdom throughout the season.

Even though the team lost to Valparaiso, the meet wasn't all negative. Maria Toledo, '99, said, "A lot of people made personal records."

Since injuries attributed to several losses some different practice techniques were tried to help the injuries.

Rebecca Bosch, '98, a distance runner, explained, "Swimming gives the legs relief from running the track."

The team practiced every day and on some Saturdays.

Dana Gombus, '99, who runs the 4 by 800 relay and the 800, summed up the season, "The season's been pretty good, and everyone was trying hard."

The key members for the Pirates were mostly seniors. Gina Fastero, Rebekah Jusko, Angie Krumrie, Ruby Long, Luedtke, Stephanie Nicolini, Theobald, and Vargas, were the leaders as

well as some of the most valuable athletes. Underclassmen who played an important role in the success of the Pirates were, Maria Toledo, '98, Dana Bozeman, Angie Austin, and Lisa Fastero, all '00.

Although the Pirates had lost many talented athletes because of graduation, a strong and large freshman class was ready and willing to step up to fill the empty spaces.

Another high note of the season was Theobald's attempt to become the first girl in Indiana to pole vault in a high school track event. She was looking toward the day pole vault will become an Olympic sport for women.

Theobald did additional training with Boys' Track Coach Jim Johnston including weight training in her attempt to achieve her goal. ■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



A SANDY LANDING ■

Rebekah Jusko works to keep her balance while stretching for her best attempt at long jump.



WARMING UP THOSE

MUSCLES ■ Stretching to keep one's muscles warm is one way the team tried to prevent more injuries.

UP AND OVER ■ Lisa Bowen successfully clears the bar to move on to the next height. Unlike the boys who may go over the bar backward or forward, the rules require girls to go over the bar on their backs.

LEARNING THE ROPES

■ Paul Navarro was just one of the J.V. athletes who toiled unnoticed for the team.



J.V. PLAYERS

Junior Varsity sports finally get some attention.

To play on the varsity, hear the crowd cheer, make the winning shot, these were thoughts that went through the minds of J.V. athletes during their different seasons.

Many sports had their J.V. and varsity players practice together to see which players got to compete in the varsity meets. However, many J.V. players did not get that opportunity. Those J.V. players who didn't play in a varsity event competed in J.V. meets that drew less crowds and less attention during the morning announcements. After their meets, they stood and watched their varsity teammates compete and wished that they were on the varsity roster as well.

No too many people realized that J.V. sports made varsity athletes. How did varsity players become as great as they were? It didn't happen overnight. It came

from working hard and learning from mistakes. Some athletes even worked from the time they were in elementary and middle school sports.

Not many people wanted to watch J.V. sports because they never knew just how well these guys played. Look at football. The J.V. football team went undefeated this past season. Yet every time they looked up into the stands during a game, there was next to no one in the crowd. Many of the J.V. players lettered and moved on to the varsity next season.

Of course, varsity will always get more attention than J.V. sports just because the best play in varsity.

Nevertheless, there will always be athletes who were going to be great, and there will always be those athletes who had to work twice as hard in J.V. sports just

to get a varsity position.

All the athletes, varsity and J.V., worked to be the best. They spent time in off-season training and weight lifting. That was where the coaches looked to see which athletes wanted that spot in the varsity positions. Whatever sport or sports players were in, it was important for practice and be patient.

Every season, J.V. athletes came back to the sports they loved, to see who was back, and to try out again for that starting varsity position.

They worked their hardest during the preseason conditioning hoping to be one of the lucky ones to make the move up to varsity. Every athlete dreamed of being in the big game and scoring points for the home team. It was something that players remembered for the rest of their lives.

■ Nick Farabaugh

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

Team Rosters



POISED FOR ACTION

The Lady Pirates wait for their opponents to return the ball. The team ended the season with a 13-4 record winning their fourth straight Sectional title.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



Boys Cross Country Row 1: Eugene Vivo, Ricky Garcia, Tony James, Rob Wojcik, Derek Floyd, Aaron Santelik. Row 2: Coach Greg Pierson, Ray Keillman, Matt Johnston, John Bassett, Brad Balcerak, Bret Romeo.



Freshman Football Row 1: Lance Roy, Mike Williams, Mike Cobb, Eric Novak, Ryan Lawrence, Justin O'Brien, Jake Rodriguez, Trenton Backstot, Andy Gilman. Row 2: Dan Dyer, Joe Gabison, Chris Conn, Bob Kleiman, Chris Chamberlain, Josh Mehay, Ron Reid, Brenton MacDonald, Dennis Smith, Mike McCord. Row 3: Jeff O'Keefe, Rick Sandilla, Tony Domelle, Coach Chris Knutz Coach Tom Peller, Coach Bill Roberts, Jake Camp, Don Bish, Hector Mendez. Row 4: Ryan Smith, Steve Martech, Justin Adams, Mike Terek, Joe Jackson, Sasha Dimovski, Armond Baskin, Terry Peak. Row 5: Justin Gilmore, Byron Sharp, Antoine Gaines, Adam Feslak, Jon Lexxa, Ray Shaffer, Jake Argenta, Ryan Dulla, Jason Morris.



Girls Cross Country Row 1: Rebecca Bosch, Joyce Herrera, Maria Toledo, Michelle Hogan, Jill Theobald, Blythe Bertolo, Angela Bertolo. Row 2: Ruby Long, Valerie Pratscher, Kris Burke, Jessica Vargas. Coach Phil Hey., Stephanie Valbe, Nakia Clemmons, Lisa Rerehon.



Varsity and JV Football Row 1: Brandon Kelly, Richard Lite, Stevie Lopez, Andy Dimer, Joshi Frank, Jacques Harris, Jorge Alcocer, David Rodriguez, Joe Gargano, Anthony Accuna, Marco Pagan. Row 2: Paul Navarro, Brian Chapman, Eugene Wilson, Mike Nalborczyk, Erik Herber, Chris Hodges, Tom Mauman, Mike Sell, Naum Duncis, Jessie Hernandez, Eddie Roman, Josie Francis, Anaywan Spencer, Rozell Manning. Row 3: Beth Scheffer, Angie Krumm (Mngrs.), Trainer Sue Hayes, Trainer Mike Lezak, Coach Yehuda, Coach Artie, Coach Andy, Coach Carl, Coach Rich, Coach George, Coach Mike Kraw, Coach Artie Hayes, Coach Ryan Pitts, Trainer Suzanne Bohart, T.J. Madors, Natasha Nixon, Melissa Lair (Mngrs.). Row 4: Craig Demarce, Nick Farabaugh, Joe Giordano, Paul Moddy, Nik Ristevski, Aaron Steele, Sam Berkman, Angelo Howard, Javon Coriano, Jam Rausci, Delrick Williams, Row 5: Kristian Willis, Steve Passaloukos, Jason Hae, Terry Emmons, Duray Lawrence, Billy Dimovski, Mike Mitchell, Monell Pace, Jesus Villareal, Nick Yach. Row 6: Dave Everett, Pete Ilievski, P.J. Montelione, Petko Naumovski, Dorit Dertic, Mike Sturte, Dan Spencer, Ray Rogalski, Mike Megyesi, Ma'Yrian Anderson, Sam Carter. Row 7: Steve Minchuk, Terrence Boyd, Jermell Pengin, Jayson Culp, Bear Hatfield, Jeff Thames, Andy Byrom, Greg Mallory, Dave Downs, Ryan Francis.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



Girls Golf Row 1: Jamie Dobis, Tracy Albee, Michelle Uremovich, Robyn Johnson, Kelly Meeks, Kim Seebur, Coach Mike Hackett, Elena Fasel, Mandy Sovish, Beth Matlock, Carolina Procter, Nicole Brown, Lindsey Krumrie.



Varsity Pom-Poms Row 1: Emily Barnett, Elisabeth Black, Krissy Malast, Annette Harness. Row 2: Maileia Marie, Krissi Mersot, De Anna Shonk, Diana Hammer, Patty Underwood, Bonnie McFarland. Row 3: Coach Marianne Oates, Kathy Bartochowski, Sandy Damjanowski, Kelly Kellman, Marygrace Foster, Betsy Lucas.



JV Pom-Poms Row 1: Dana Levitt, Gina Bartolomeo, Nicole Rakich, Melissa Sonaty, Jenny Chung, Row 2: Jenny Villars, Jenny Grub, Christina Guerrero, Michelle Kinzel, Jennifer Molia, Row 3: Coach Nancy Packowski, Randi Pigg, Lindsey Myslwiec, Sarah Liakos, Sandy Skratsky, Robin McIndoo.



JV Boys Soccer Row 1: Adam Deel, Larry Guterrez, Steve, Row 2: John Matusik, Paul Sulecki, Jason Collins, Mike Cubitz, Jeff Miller, Rob Dowdy, Paul Todorowski, Jim Roanes, Joe Makarowski. Row 3: Steve Carson, Julian Anaya, Mike Sopko, Coach Bruce, Chris Vargas, Bill Johnson, Jon Ollech.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



Varsity Boys Soccer Row 1: Jeff Fairbairn, David Rainey, Sergio Medellin, Row 2: Joel Sanchez, Chris Celeksi, Nick Gonzalez, Steve Kavous, Kayvon Karimi, Oliver Doranteski, Steve Rivera. Row 3: Coach Randy Conner, Nick Wright, John Miller, Chris Dimitroff, Robert Zimnawoda, Coach, Josh Gross, Danny Ristevski, Freddie Buck, Adam Vadas.



Varsity Girls Soccer Row 1: Sarah Camery, Rebekah Jusko, Kari Forster, Mandi Sopko, Natalie Conner. Row 2: Danielle Moore, Sarah Jones, Jill Matusik, April Nichols. Row 3: Coach Jennifer Fuller, April Connolly, Michele Vasilevski, Kate O'Sullivan, Lena Cole, Jamie Ulbrich, Jennifer Rosales, Elizabeth Totoroska, Coach Louis DelaVega.



JV Girls Soccer Row 1: Kristina Berta, Angela Wahlman, Jaci Boger. Row 2: Keri Javel, Kim Roberts, Maria Spanos, Heather Morgan, Jenny Donecki, Stephanie Badyak, Maria Papamihalakis. Row 3: Nicole Nelson, Lupka Despotoski, Coach Jennifer Fuller, Eryn VanLoon, Terri Cantery, Shentley Roberts, Kathi Gaines.



Boys Tennis Row 1: Mariko Anderson (Mgr.), Nestor Rivera, Mike Igarta, Cory Burkus, Kristina Gora. Row 2: Kevin Emmett, Nick Corea, Adrian Ramirez, Neil Lux, Valantis Petalis, Rick Bobos, Joe Francis, Zach Cook, Asst Coach Stanford. Row 3: Asst. Coach Swanson, Dr. Lexington, Evan Hogland, Jeremy McLain, TJ Stochel, Joe Moore, Jack DeLiven, John Garcia, Jeremy Rinker.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



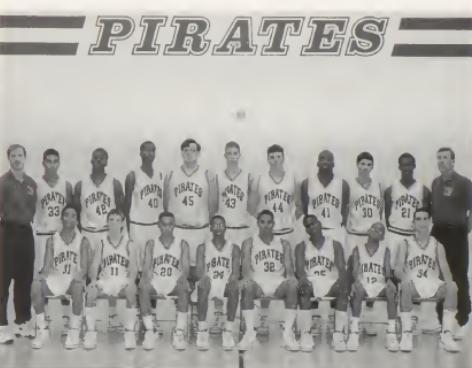
Freshman Volleyball Row 1: Kelly Bowcn, Amy Dergo, Carol Holtz, Coach Lori Covaciua, Row 2: Coach Amy Beckham, Ashley Cak, Jaclyn Vituse, Carly Berdine, Janice Marler, Kelly Sullivan, Lanahia Delecs, Julie O'Brian, Coach Colleen Collins.



Varsity Volleyball Row 1: Tina Owen, Grace Escamilla, Ashley Dobis, Row 2: Coach Colleen Collins, Coach Amy Beckham, Coach Lori Covaciua, Row 3: Deanna Goodman, Sarah Frink, Wava Riddle, Erin Price, Row 4: Christy Walsh, Elena Bielawski, Row 5: Beth Zak, Shannon Wells Row 6: Leslie Newell, Samantha Dimoff, Leslie Malerich.



JV Volleyball Row 1: Jessica Wright, Betsy Lucas, Ashley Dobis, Coach Lori Covaciua, Grace Escamilla, Tina Owen, Jennifer Webster, Row 2: Coach Amy Beckham, Demie Stath, Sarah Palokos, Kami West, Kim Lusk, Elena Bielawski, Katie Mandich, Coach Colleen Collins.



Freshman Boys Basketball Row 1: Lamar Hunter, Joe Francis, Damien Perry, Marvin Smith, Ron Reid, Ray Saxton, Brandon Hanley, Chris Vargas, Row 2: Coach Tom Peller, Justin Adams, Vince McGee, Bill Smith, Dave Robbins, Jake Argenta, Ryan Dulla, Demitrius Clark, Ben Kostelnik, Esco Robinson, Coach Jim Vermillion.

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

Team Rosters



JV Boys Basketball Row 1: Paul Navarro, Quinton Allen, Scott Underwood, Kareem Ward, Craig Demaree, Delerrick Williams. Row 2: Ben Nnadi (Mgr.), Mike Megyesi, Adam Fedak, Coach Randy Stelter, Preston Thomas, P.J. Montolone, Chuck Smoljan (Mgr.).

Freshman Girls Basketball Row 1: La'toya McGee, Ryan Durham, Natalie Martin, Kristin Seagraves, Julie Hoover, Cindy Karabetsos. Row 2: Jaime Bainbridge, Denise Varble, Keynn Pearson, Jaclyn Visuee, Carly Berdinge, Coach.



Varsity Boys Basketball Row 1: Ben Nnadi, John Bassett (Mgrs.), Sherwin Johnson, Neal Fedak, Brian Hatfield, Steve Vlahos, Donte Price, Nick Gonzalez, Chuck Smoljan (Mgrs.). Row 2: Coach Jim East, Coach Mike Hackett, Jovan Blacknell, John Davis, Jamaal Davis, Duray Lawrence, Eugene Wilson, Coach Randy Stelter, Trainer Sherm Izsak.

JV Girls Basketball Row 1: Amanda Valse, Cicely Harris, Julie Klijajich, Kelly Preuss, Justine Wojcik, Gina Welsh. Row 2: Julie O'Brien, Sarah Martinez, Janice Marler, Lanneah Delich, Latoya Jefferson, Coach Kathy Peters.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



Varsity Girls Basketball Row 1: Jennifer Klijajich, Shannon Wells, Kris Burke, Chrissy Dickerson, Carolina Procter, Erin Price, Kelly Preuss. Row 2: Coach Lori Dust, Stephanie Valse, Valerie Pratscher, Janice Marler, Victoria Bish, Nakia Clemmons, Christy Walsh, Trainer Sue Hayes, Coach Mike Pritchett.



JV Cheerleaders Row 1: Jennifer Pedroza, Katie Taylor. Row 2: Kira Scheub, Lori Wotell, Renee Reyes.



Freshman Cheerleaders Row 1: Nickole Hall, Lisa Fastero. Row 2: Jessica Gray, Janice Garcia. Row 3: Amanda Lavalette, Beth Elliott, Robin Childress.



Varsity Cheerleaders Row 1: Gina Fastero, Latoi Hughes, Kimberly Pero, Chrissy Oh. Row 2: Ryan Fasel, Randy Collins, Josh Sessions. Row 3: Jessica Reed, Amber Braden. Row 4: Katie Shapkaroff, Eugene Vivo (Mascot), Barbara Hoagland.

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



GYMNASICS Row 1: Katie Smith, Alicia DeLeon, Lisa Fastero. Row 2: Elena Malave, Riannto Ramos. Row 3: Kim Roberts, Christy Hernandez, Leslie Newell, Ti'Yon Ward, Sheneley Roberts. Row 4: Coach Diane Roberts, Coach Bill Roberts.



Girls Swimming and Diving Row 1: Katie Pumme, Jennifer Sander, Tina Shiatto. Row 2: Marissa Maiava, Missy St. Cian, Stephanie Badylak, Abby Briske, Kelly Buckner, Melisa Powers. Row 3: Coach Bryon Angerman, Jenny Adams, Jamie Modrak, Cheryl Emmett, Kelly Bowen, Jennifer Yugo, Nicole Elch, Erin Roth, Sarah Peters. Row 4: Diving Coach Sean McCarthy, April Pieroni, Lisa Bowen, Maryanne Green, Claire Slivka, Corrin Argenta, Leslie Maierich, Angela Pavlish, Jodi Reeves, Lindsay Mandich, Stephanie Nicolini



Boys Swimming and Diving Row 1: Kevin Santelik, Jeremy Rick, Adrian Ramirez, Brad Roy, Ali Santos. Row 2: Coach Bryon Angerman, Bill Santelik, Adam Rosaves, Glen Smith, Matt Pavlovich, Brandon Hoffman, Greg Denham, Steven Savka. Row 3: Coach Ryan Pitcock, Coach Sean McCarthy, Eric Pinnell, John Rooda, Jake Tellado, Chris Sikich, Doug Reeves, Lehman Best, J.P. Zunno.



JV Wrestling Row 1: Russ Francis, Eric Navarro, Paul Suleski, Marco Pagan, Lawrence Obregon. Row 2: Coach Scott Rosenbaum, Bob Kleinman, Neil Kuntz, Eric Stewart, Joe Gargano, David Rainey, Andy Tania, Coach Paul Matthews. Row 3: Coach Mark Rosenbaum, Coach Jason Bowman, Brian Damon, Dennis Smith, Jon Ollie, Ryan Bailey, Josh Mihay, Joe Konefall, Jayson Culp, Eric Beale, Dan Schiefer, Nick Farabaugh, Coach Arlie Rogers, Coach Chris Rassbach.

Team Rosters

**Varsity Wrestling**

Row 1: Miranda Jerez, Mo, Juan Gutierrez, Jack Rodriguez, Gabriel Sotomayor, Sergio Medellin, Nicolas Chirinos (Mgt.), Coach Paul Matheus. Row 2: Coach Scott Bowman, Jason Lacy, Roger Salis, Jason Talbot, Steve Rivera, Jason Schoot, Steve Lopez. Row 3: Coach Mark Rosenblum, Coach Jason Bowman, Nick Hazi, Montell Pace, McRion Anderson, Dorin Derico, Ryan Francis, Dan Spencer, Jon Talbot, Kevin English, Coach Chris Rassbach, Coach Artie Rogers.

**Varsity Baseball**

Row 1: Josh Francis, Eric Xadis, Jeff Nelson, Aaron Longeneck, Quanton Allen, Joe Giordano, Craig Demaree, Jake Sauerzerna. Row 2: Coach Fenton Macke, Coach Bill Roberts, Kevin Emmett, Sam Berkman, Matt Aubin, Marc Bruner, Neal Fedak, Mark Mazany, Greg Mish, Coach Mike Krutz.

**JV Baseball**

Row 1: Coach Rosenbaum, Jon Kwiatkowski, Dave Everett, Ryan Dalla, Paul Navarro, Nick Yack, Adam Ama. Coach Doug Macke. Row 2: Dave Huber, Joe Klippl, Scott Sharp, Ryan Fasel, Tom Mauman, Dan Schleifer.

**JV Softball**

Row 1: Shirley Roberts, Michelle Urenovich, Chrissy Hernandez, Kimberly Roberts. Row 2: Lindsay Mysliewicz, Betsy Luce, Heather Morgan, Randi Gurnee, Tracey Albee. Row 3: Iesha Hearne, Julie O'Brien, Carly Berdine, Coach Randy Stelter, Jackie Vista, Jaime Bainbridge, Carol Holtz, Jennifer Webster.

BEHIND THE MASK

■ Catcher Tina Owen gives a target to pitcher Leslie Malerich. Owen, who has caught Malerich since she was eight years-old, is a steady influence on the ace.



YOU'RE OUT ■

Leading off, the baserunner gets ready to take off during Sectional play.

SCORING ■

Carolina Procter hugs Kelly Preuss after they scored in the sixth inning against Ft. Wayne Northrup.



**NUMBER ONE ■**

The Lady Pirates celebrate winning their second state championship in softball in four years. The Bucs beat previously unbeaten Carmel 1-0.

TAKIN' STATE

1-0 proves lucky as the Bucs top Carmel in the State Finals

They were supposed to be the third best team in the area. A team that had a 19-7 record for the regular season and won eight of those games 1-0 couldn't win state.

But they didn't give up. They proved the doubters wrong by knocking off the Carmel Greyhounds 1-0 in the State Championship game.

The game turned into a pitching duel between Leslie Malerich, '98, and Carmel's Jenny Kniptash. Malerich pitched a one hit shutout to win the duel earning the Pirates their second state title in four years.

The Pirates are the only team in history to win two state softball titles. The first was in 1993.

The road to Cherry Hill wasn't easy, however. After wins over Griffith and Highland in Sectionals, the Lady Bucs moved into Regional play with Lowell.

It took the Pirates nine in-

nings to defeat the Red Devils 1-0. Malerich fired a two hitter and bounced a two-out single to right to score Tina Owen, '98, but it was Christine Hernandez's walk that won the game.

That took the Pirates to the final game against Munster. The biggest plays in the game came from Carolina Procter and Sarah Frink, both '97. Frink made a basket catch on the warning track before crashing into the wall still managing to hang onto the ball. Procter hit an insurance home run in the sixth inning ending the game 2-0 and earning the right to face Penn at Semistate.

The bats came out against Penn. "Today we hit better off a pitcher like that than we have all year," said Coach Bob Bergeson as Penn fell 8-0.

It was a different story when the Pirates faced Portage. Despite two regular season loses to

the Indians, the Pirates were determined to win.

In the bottom of the fifth inning Kris Burke, '97, led off with a walk. Chrissy Dickerson, '97, had bunted her over to second when Stacey Bish, '97, drove a fastball to the left field fence scoring Burke. That was the only run the Pirates needed to win 1-0, sending the Pirates into the Final Four against Ft. Wayne Northrup.

With the score tied 1-1 against Northrup, third baseman Burke caught the ball and looked for the play at first, but no one was covering. Since she had no play she quickly threw the ball to Dickerson who was covering third.

Dickerson tagged out the runner rounding third reversing the momentum in the game which Merrillville went on to win 4-1 for the right to play Carmel in the championship game.

Team Rosters ■ TR11

FALL**WINTER****SPRING**

Team Rosters



Varsity Softball Row 1: Beth Scheffer (Mgr.), Erin Price, Kelly Preuss, Ashley Dohs, Row 2: Coach Pat Mulroy, Deanna Goodman, Tina Owens, Natalie Martin, Jill Matusik, Sara Frink, Lori Hoover, Coach Mark Zak. Row 3: Coach Jim Frink, Jaime Modrak, Chrissy Dickerson, Julie Hoover, Stacey Bish, Leslie Malarich, Kris Burke, Beth Zak, Carolina Proctor, Coach Bob Bergeson.



Girls Track and Field Row 1: Virginia Borrelli, Daria Smith, Maeganey Mead, Latora Gardner, Kristin Fastero, Kristina Jolley, Jennifer McCurry, Linda Hinostroza, Lisa Estremo, Amy Dorge, Rebecca Bosch. Row 2: Kandace Stanford, Angela Guzman, Jaci Bogar, Maria Toledo, Erin Moore, Rebekah Jusko, Heather Oaks, Heather Ludzik, Lynee Jones, Lindsey Krumrie, April Skura, Coach Popovich. Row 3: Coach Ryan Pitcock, Jackie Van Duseldorp, Lisa Modglin, Jill Theobald, Kelly Bowen, Ruby Long, Beth Matlock, Stephanie Nicolini, Dana Gombus, Marisa Malave, Sara Stanicione. Row 4: Coach Joe Atria, Melissa Flutka, Erin Van Loon, Jessica Gray, Dana Bozeman, Kathy Kaminsky, Jessica Vargas, Angela Austin, Angie Krumrie, Keynn Pearson, Missy Kelsey, Elizabeth Sullivan, Coach Hey.



Boys Track and Field Row 1: Sean Trommelli, Derek Floyd, Anthony James, Robert Woyciech, Nate Hall. Row 2: Eugene Vion, McKinnon, Anderson. Row 3: Coach Jeff Clinkenbeard, Bind Balcerak, Tom Alfie, Mike Filan. Row 4: Joe Moore, Nik Risticewski, Coach Jimm Stack, Demetrios Clack. Row 3: Coach Jim Johnston, Andy Byrnes, Ray Kelman, Dorian Derico.



Girls Tennis Row 1: Blythe Bertolo, Leslie Mackowiak, Ashley Cak, Sandy Skratsky, Sarah Jurisic, Row 2: Cassidy, Cheryl Emmett, Terri Cancer, Kristina Gros, Amanda Valse, Elizabeth Bohos, Sevia Vasineillis, Shivan Tejuja, Angela Bertolo. Row 3: Coach Larry Swanson, Danielle Moore, Renee Reyes, Samantha Dimoff, Kim Lux, Janice Marler, Stephanie Valse, Demee Stath, Dr. Ferrer Levinson, Coach Dave Zimmerman.

OFF SEASON SPORTS



YEAR-ROUND SPORTS ■

Erin Roth competed in the 100-yard backstroke in an aquatic club meet. Roth, like many athletes, practiced year round to maintain her competitive edge.

OFF-SEASON

Some athletes spend their time off training for the next season.

When the season drew to an end for most athletes, they were looking forward to their well-deserved time off. For others, they were just getting ready to start another season of the same sport.

With hundreds of athletes at MHS, a portion of them found time to better prepare themselves in the off season through AAU and club teams. This was true for athletes in the sports of gymnastics, swimming and diving, track and field, soccer, tennis, wrestling, and more.

Some athletes may be able to practice in the same place as they did during the high school season, like swimming and gymnastics. Others, such as basketball and volleyball, must travel around they area. Some travel as far as Lafayette, because of the limited number of athletes from the same high school varsity team allowed on an off-season team by the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Vicki Bish, '99, a varsity basketball player, participated on two off-season teams, Chesterton AAU and Main West AAU. On

these teams Bish feels the competition to win was the same, but "it's different due to the facts we play how we want and don't worry about mistakes."

Kevin Emmett, '97, a member of the 1996 state runner-up baseball team, spent every summer on an AAU baseball game. Last summer, Emmett played for the Hammond Seminoles. On this team, Emmett participated in about 60 games plus tournaments, and practiced everyday they didn't have a game. Accomplishments for Emmett during the summer included an AAU team state title, and for himself, making the Bob Bird Memorial All-Tournament Team.

Kelly Bowen, '00, a member of the 22-5 freshman volleyball team, spent her off-season participating for the "Dunes" volleyball league. In this league, Bowen was given the opportunity to play with players from all over Northwest Indiana and some from Illinois. Bowen felt it was rewarding because, "You make new friends in Dunes and it's nice to play with other people."

Erin Roth, '98, a member of the varsity swimming and diving team, spent her off-season competing for MAC, Merrillville Aquatic Club. For MAC, Roth had swam for close to eight years, and had qualified numerous times for the state meet. Roth said, "MAC isn't that different from high school swimming. I practically have the same coaching staff, practice in the same pool, and swim with mostly the same people."

Jill Matusik, '98, team and DAC soccer MVP, was a member of the elite Northwest United team. This team included girls from all over Northwest Indiana, and usually practiced in Merrillville. This team took her as far Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri. Matusik added, "We play harder teams, better competition, and at the same time it's lots of fun, traveling all over and meeting lots of people."

Next time you congratulate an athlete on a season on well done, wish them luck on an equally important season just beginning.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



“



sit beside the fire and think of all that I have seen, of yellow flowers and butterflies in summers that have been.”

1997 is over. Like J.R.R. Tolkien's Bilbo Baggins, it is time to sit by the fire and think about the past year.

It started out well enough with several monster changes in the theater business. The first pure fantasy movie unblemished by little cute animals or adorably curious children hit the screens. It brought a dragon to life. Sean Connery animated the mythical beast as only his voice could. Dennis Quaid played the famed dragon slayer who made a living by ridding the world of these fabulous beasts. It was an excellent start for the movie industry.

It moved on to the main thrill of the year with the release of “Star Trek: First Contact.” Jean-Luc Picard and company battled the indomitable borg to the death in the eighth “Star Trek” film. Phrases such as “It is a good day to die,” and “The line must be drawn here,” were repeated throughout the school for months after the movie was out of the theater. It was arguably the best “Star Trek” film to date.

The big event in movies came out shortly after that though. “Star Wars,” “The Empire Strikes Back” and “The Return of the Jedi” were re-released with added scenes, and spruced up special effects. The voice of James Earl Jones as Darth Vader sent chills down student's spines as it boomed across the surround sound theaters of the 90's.

Movies were a giant part of most high school students' lives, but students find time to notice other things as well.

The year also brought on the re-election of Democratic President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, and the legal battles that Clinton brought with him. The Whitewater case seemed to be over, but a woman was claimed that Clinton sexually harassed her. The case was being considered by the Supreme Court.

Congress remained in Republican control, but the majority was not as large as the previous term. House Speaker Newt Gingrich was also re-instated despite ethical problems of his own that came to light.

The year ended much like it began. With science-fiction blockbusters in the theater and with legal problems in the White House and Congress.

■ Chris Sikich

Looking Deeper

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



'till 2000

A Democratic President also becomes the first president of the new millennium

An out-and-out landslide is probably the best way to describe the presidential elections. President Bill Clinton practically swept the November elections against Republican nominee Bob Dole.

Dole, a Senate staple, stepped down to run in what became his last political action. Should he have won though, he would have made the oldest man ever to hold the presidency—something that made voters a little leery.

Clinton, in his second term has bigger things ahead of him, facing every possible scandal that could end in the word 'gate.'

New Look, Old School

In the ongoing series of improvement, Pierce Middle School is the next in line for a face-lift.

Did you know that Pierce will be the first high tech school of the 20th century? The general contractor, Skillman Corp., and several other construction companies are working together to build a 28 million dollar middle school. The first demolition started on the shop classrooms. Shortly after, classrooms along the north hallway fell victim to the wrecking ball. The whole process began in January of '97 and is suppose to be finished in the fall of '99.

Due to the enrollment growth at Pierce, a larger school was in desperate need. The new school will have a maximum capacity of 1,150 people. In the mean time, sixth graders are attending S.S. Peter and Paul,

also known as Pierce North. There, normal classes are attended and at 2:40, they are shipped back to Pierce and get on their regular buses to go home. Every year until the remodeling is done, the sixth grade class will go to Pierce North for their classes. Sounds very confusing? Well, it's not that bad.

Linda Janitis, the new principal of the old Pierce, said, "All the students and staff are taking it very well. It has been hard at times, but everyone has kept their spirits up.

"Some teachers even cried to see their old classrooms that they have had for many years be torn down to leave only now precious memories of their teaching past. Now, they can all obtain some new memories, in a new school.



'This One's for Lombardi'

Superbowl XXXI pitted the Packers against the Patriots. It'd been quite a while since either team saw the glory of a bowl game, but the taste of victory was savored for Green Bay.

On January 26th, Super Bowl XXXI rumbled into the Superdome in New Orleans. Both the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots made it to the bowl, with Green Bay winning, 35 to 21. This was the first time in 29 years that the Packers had played, putting the title back in the "Titletown."

The team named the trophy after Vince Lombardi, the coach who lead the Packers to victory in the first two Super Bowls.

Desmond Howard, a castoff college star returned a kickoff for 99 yards, something he hadn't done in his five year career, late in the third quarter and won the MVP trophy. Howard managed to get six returns for 90 yards and is the first

special teams player ever to win an MVP trophy and finish with a 224 yard return record. Howard is a 1991 Heisman Trophy winner and returned three punts for touchdowns during the regular season, then got another in a divisional playoff win over the San Francisco 49ers.

The team wanted to win for Reggie White. They saved him for last in the pregame introductions, and White saved his best for last in the game. White is the career sacks leader and leader of defense for Green Bay. He got three sacks in the final 18 minutes to help lead Green Bay and receive his first NFL title. Even though sacks were not an official statistic before 1982, White had set a Super Bowl record.

Bowing out in '97 Not Forgotten

George Burns
Margaux Hemingway

Tiny Tim

Helen Kushnick

Greer Garson

Gene Kelly

Ray Combs

Cardinal Bernardin

Timothy Leary

Notorious B.I.G.

Ella Fitzgerald

Vince Edwards

Jonathan Larson

Tupac Shakur

Dorthy Lamour

Erma Bombeck

Spiro Agnew

Minnie Pearl



SITE FOR THE
CENTENNIAL
OLYMPIC GAMES

Atlanta



CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP Track Star
Michael Johnson
celebrates his win,
Gymnast Keri Strug
comes down in the
clinching vault, the site
of the bombing,
Dominique Dawes in
her floor exercise, and
cleared bombing
suspect Richard Jewel
not long after he was
ruled out of the case.



The South was showcase to the world's talent for three weeks. Three weeks of pride, honor, disgust and anguish were written in the history books with the gymnastics team taking the gold and the Olympic Park falling victim to a terrorist's fatal tactic... Still, it is a splendor sure to be remembered for generations.

A once in a lifetime event many will call it, but others won't be looking back on the 1996 summer games with as much pride as those who walked off the field wearing gold medals.

As almost anything in history, not everything turned out to be a fairy-tale. Yes, for the first time in quite some time the gymnastics team did win the gold. Yes, it was breath-taking to watch an already injured Keri Strug take her last vault and clinch the title for her team. And yes, we did cheer as both Michael Johnson and Dan O'Brien bought home first place in their respective sports, track and the triathlon.

For so many victories, it's amazing that one thing could spoil the entire event.

In the middle of everything, a bomb went off in the Olymp-

ic Park. No suspects were apprehended for some time and the one person that they did manage to charge, Richard Jewel, was later set free, and cleared of charges. It's sad that an event meant to tie the world together in peace would be shattered by violence.



Not So Eligible Anymore



Hearts are broken as the photos trickle in on the magazine covers. America's Most-Eligible had been taken off the market... In royal style!

Jackie would have been proud, her son tied the knot and did it in all the grace that would fit a Kennedy, or in this case, a Bessette-Kennedy.

The world waited for the day they could see their favorite son march down the aisle, but when it happened, no one was watching. JFK Jr. had successfully pulled off what no one could have thought possible: a private wedding. The couple flew guests in, had everyone sign papers binding silence and even chose a remote island for the ceremony.

It wasn't long before the story broke. But at least long enough for the couple to be whisked away on their honeymoon.



ABOVE It made the cover of People and sent the world into shock! JFK Jr. tied the knot, an event the media had been waiting for since his birth had been left out. LEFT The couple at an event together; Bessette in her earlier days.

As the 'Real World' Turns

MTV's docu-soap spun on a new axis in Miami, adding an unusual twist with the housemates having to start their own business.

The fifth season of the MTV docu-drama brought the series back to US shores, and warm ones at that. This time the seven strangers landed in Miami Beach, and next door to Jon Secada. But the 'real' twist came when producers Bumim/Murray decided to have the housemates start their own business... Did it work?

The idea did cause the people to have to deal with each other a little more, but as for a business? Well... let's just say that when you're brought together by the sole fact that you'll have nothing in common, finding one single idea that everyone can agree on is a bit challenging.

The Miami series is followed by Boston, due to start airing this July. While there has been no confirmation that Boston will be the last of the popular series, rumors have been floating for months... some even leaked from the staff themselves. There is a Merrillville connection to 'The Real World' too. Patrick Farabaugh '95 grad was one of the finalists for the Boston cast.

TOP Joe Patane, and friend Nic, of the Miami cast visit Joe's friend Patrick Farabaugh, '95 Merrillville graduate while he was living in Boston in April. Farabaugh was a strong contender for the sixth season set in Boston. BOTTOM Mike Lambert, Dan Renzi, Cynthia Roberts and Patane in their MTV digs.





BATMAN & ROBIN

Clooney's in the Cape and Thurman is Eco-Terrorist Poison Ivy. What more could a guy want, except maybe Silverstone wrapped in a cowl...

At this point, even Larry King might be able to pull off playing the Caped Crusader with some box-office success... But George Clooney? Nah, it'll never work. What was sophomore director Joel Schumacher thinking when he cast one of PEOPLE WEEKLY's 50 Most Beautiful People Alive as the New Dark Knight? And if that wasn't bad enough, then he chose Arnold Schwarzenegger as the villainous Mr. Freeze, a cryogenic case gone bad and Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl... That Schumacher, this guy must be clueless.

The only thing that might be able to save him

is Uma Thurman as the lethal-lipstick-laced Poison Ivy, a character who catches the eye of Chris O'Donnell's Robin. O'Donnell himself marks the first to return for a repeat performance since Michael Keaton donned the shroud in the original *Batman* and *Batman Returns*.

He picked Clooney! What next? Man, before you know it, they'll all be saying, 'Val who?'



PEOPLE'S 50 MOST BEAUTIFUL

Toni Braxton ■ Brad Pitt ■ Claire Danes ■ Michael Flatley ■ Roma Downey ■ Cuba Gooding Jr. ■ Spice Girls ■ Oscar De La Hoya ■ Marie-Chantal ■ Tom Cruise ■ Mia Hamm ■ Jared Leto ■ Juliette Binoche ■ David Chokachi ■ Gwen Stefani ■ Garrett Wang ■ Lauren Bacall ■ Vivica Fox ■ Tom Ford ■ Lisa Kudrow ■ Oprah Winfrey ■ Rebecca Romijn ■ Matt Lauer ■ Leonardo Di Caprio ■ Jennifer Lopez ■ Andre Braugher ■ Winona Ryder ■ David Baldacci ■ Krisitin Scott Thomas ■ Harrison Ford ■ Gillian Anderson ■ Paul Sereno ■ Jacinda Barrett ■ Derek Jeter ■ Michelle Yeoh ■ Deana Carter ■ Jeff Gordon ■ Liv Tyler ■ Kamar De los Reyes ■ Lucy Lawless ■ Jeanine Pirro ■ Drew Barrymore ■ Christopher Cuomo ■ Gavin Rossdale ■ Pattie Maes ■ Jim Carrey

All Eyez Bowed

Two major-label rap stars bite the bullet in a chilling life-imitates-art prophecy.

In the words of Rodney King, "Can't we all just get along?" It seems that the rap community is under fire. Not from the criticism it's accustomed to, but from within the community itself. A hate-hate relationship between the east and west coast labels have left both Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. in early graves, immortalizing Shakur's motto, 'Thug 4 Life.'



The downfall of Hitler had occurred in Germany. The TV show "I Love Lucy" was making history in the United States. And Juan and Eva Peron were gaining power in Argentina.

The year was 1950, but the movie wasn't made until 1996, almost even '97.

Madonna, pregnant at the time with her daughter Lourdes, fulfilled a dream, portraying Eva "Evita" Peron, peasant girl turned First Lady of Argentina. Antonio Banderas nursed a small role in the movie too—still receiving a top billing though. By disguising himself so he can act as narrator, he followed Eva chronicling her rags-to-riches story.

Madonna dedicated herself to the character, which in many ways paralleled her own life. Eva Peron was raised by a single parent when her father dies—in real-life, it was Ms. Ciccone's mother—and sleeps her way to the top, something Madonna is all-too-familiar with.

The role did in fact get her a Golden Globe nod and even the statuette for 'Best Actress in a musical,' but she didn't fair well with the Academy Awards. 'Ol Os-



Madonna + EVITA = the Ultimate DIVA!

The master of the makeover does it again, reinventing herself as both a picture of parental morality and a girl to rise from the bowels of society to claim fame—*what a stretch*.

car stiffed her, with only the Loyd/Webber song she sings, "You Must Love Me" getting better acquainted with the gold-coated man.

The movie was actually a

modern-day musical, a rock-opera with virtually no spoken dialogue in its script. But, for those who thought Banderas couldn't sing, well, the verdict is still out on that one.

Independance Day

It was the 'other' big blockbuster, bringing the third kind just a little closer to our kind.

Well, they've landed... even blew up a few cities and who do we turn to for help? Will Smith, Bill Pulman and Jeff Goldblum. Yeah, we're in safe hands, or at least gold-coated ones. *ID4* crushed its summer competition and easily went on to become the second most profitable movie in history, the world over. Thanks guys.



An Animation Sensation

'Beavis and Butt-head' creator Mike Judge goes from MTV to FOX with 'Simpsons' compliment, 'King of the Hill.'

"That boy ain't right," exclaimed Hank Hill, father, propane vender.

The new cartoon sitcom "King of the Hill," was the newest animated feature Sunday nights on Fox. It was created by Greg Daniels and Mike Judge (Beavis and Butt-head), with Judge also voicing Hank.

Hank couldn't have been prouder to live in Texas. While he would have liked to appear in control, also known as Peggy, his

wife, often assumed the role for him.

Throughout the season, their 12 year-old son Bobby experimented with cigarettes, practiced kissing on a plastic head, and took etiquette lessons from a chauvinistic grandfather.

Hank pals

around with long time friends Bill, and Dale, whose witty ignorance makes him unaware that his son really belonged to his wife's therapist.

The Hill household also included Peggy's niece, Luanne, who struggled in beauty school, and would have flunked out if it wasn't for her Uncle Hank's help.



Oh Gina

She makes one thing very clear.
There is life after 'Showgirls.'

"Eh, Ms. Gershon... So how'd you do it?" That's the pondering question behind Gina these days. With Elizabeth Berkley in ashes and her career almost on the Rocks, Gershon bounces back in the let's-beat-the-mob movie *Bound* and shows that there really is depth in beauty, and vice-versa. Way to go Gina!



DeGeneres acts straight for her movie 'Mr. Wrong'

Turning... Lebanese?

Ellen DeGeneres poked and teased, even prodded a little before finally breaking out of the proverbial closet.

were dropped, some not-so-subtle like DeGeneres teasing David Letterman on *Late Night*. When he bluntly asked Ellen whether or not her character Ellen Morgan was, in fact, going to become gay, DeGeneres's reply was both, well, witty and pretty. "Turning Lebanese, I think I'm turning Lebanese, I really think so..." she said.

April 30, 1997. Laura Dern, Melissa Etheridge, k.d. Lang, Demi Moore, and Oprah Winfrey helped America introduce its first Lesbian Lucy, its first gay lead character.

Yep, I'm Gay. It was a pretty bold cover for TIME Magazine, also an exclusive. For an entire television season Ellen Morgan, DeGeneres' alter persona on her ABC sitcom *Ellen*, played a game of proverbial cat and mouse with the media only to be one-upped by DeGeneres herself.

It all started when someone leaked anonymous information to ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY in October of '96, which resulted in a "Gay TV" cover story and full-blown controversy. Hints

Yadda, Yadda, Jerry!

TV's top show keeps us entertained at the small cost of about, oh, \$100,000 per star, per show.

"Hello..... Newman."

Although the cast of Seinfeld always greeted the nosy, overweight neighbor like this, the cast was much more appreciated by their audience.

Showing at 8 o'clock on Thursday nights, Seinfeld grew to be the number one watched sitcom in the nation. Throughout the eight year run, we've come to love Jerry, Elaine, Kramer and George. These four combined to entertain us either through Jerry's jokes, Elaine's

writing for the J. Peterman catalog, George's seemingly unfair bad luck, and Kramer's everyday ability to survive off of no job. They've brought us the "Soup Nazi," "The Susan Ross Foundation," and "The Maestro."

Although Seinfeld has had a productive past, the future may be short. With all of the cast negotiating their contracts, the cast may be back for one last season, or eight more. Until then, we've just got to sit back and enjoy the show whether it's about Kramer's tendency to say whatever is on his mind or George's surprising influence on the New York Yankees.

1996-'97's Blockbusters

Independance Day
Twister
Mission: Impossible
The Rock
Ransom
The Nutty Professor
The Birdcage
101Dalmations
A Time to Kill
The First Wives Club
Phenomenon
Eraser
Jerry Maguire
Tin Cup
The Cable Guy
Broken Arrow

Mr. Manson, What's Next?

He's the next big shock-rocker, and he even thinks he's you-know-who, but what does Marilyn Manson have besides his music?

You know, they said that about Ozzie Osbourne too, but for some odd reason, this time it looks like Manson may prove everyone wrong. After all, he seems to make that a cause in life.

No one really caught on to Marilyn Manson till he and his band released an Annie Lenox remake of her then hit, "Sweet Dreams." Naturally Manson's was a little more dark and twisted, but would he have it any other way? The controversy today has moved though from his music to the venues he's playing at. A New Jersey arena along with other have tried to have him banned, but with no success. It seems Manson does have some appeal, but who'd have thought it was the type that's used in a court room?



NO DOUBT

about it, GIRL POWER is really ruling rock!

It's a woman's world out there and the boys aern't allowed to play anymore... or so says the Spice Girls, Garbage, and No Doubt.

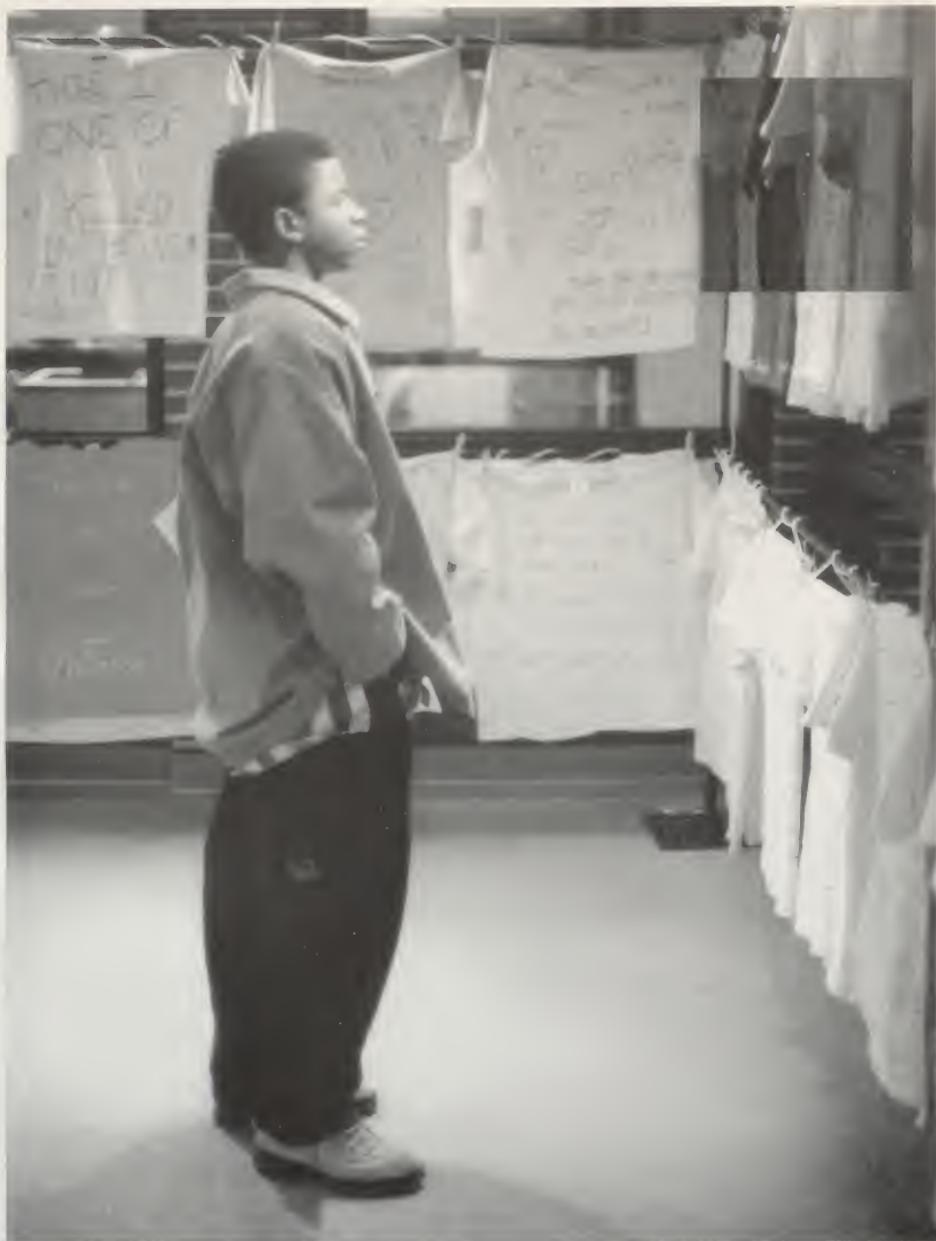
Since when did an all-girl anthem like No Doubt's 'Just a Girl' signal a call-to-arms for women to take over rock? Someone must have left me out in the cold on that one, but with the wave of femme-groups popping up on the charts... something surely went down.

Coming from out of nowhere, Stefani and her cross between ska and rock band, No Doubt, swiped the number one spot for sales... pushing out yet another woman, Alanis Morissette. But their reign

of the pop charts got bumped by, you guessed it, a female British invasion that proves, well, Spice ain't always nice. (As if the angst-ridden Shirley Manson didn't tell us that in Garbage.)

But all this chart shuffling has opened the doors for many new artists, like the 19 year-old Fiona Apple and power-ballad-belter with an attitude, Leah Andriané. Looks like 'Girl Power' is something men might just going to have to get used to!







“

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.”

High school students made the decision of whether or not to conform almost daily. Most, like Robert Frost, decided to be different.

Some did this by dressing differently while others changed their haircuts or grew beards. But, in high school life many of these physical things went unnoticed. The real way to tell one student from another was how they lived their lives and what their plans for the future were.

Merrillville had a wide range of students with unique talents. With the growing number of specialized jobs and the shrinking number of the labor force, these talents seemed crucial to landing a job outside of school. Students couldn't afford to get by high school and land a job doing physical labor somewhere.

Many students took advantage of the school's industrial arts classes to prepare to be an auto mechanic or a specialized construction worker.

Other students prepared for life by loading up on science courses in order to become engineers.

Some loaded up on English classes with the hopes of becoming journalists and writers.

These goals were not something that students picked up at the door of the classroom and left on the way out. They defined who people were. They were a specific and important part of everybody's personality.

The students in autopshop often worked on cars of their own time during the weekend. The future engineers tinkered with...Well, they probably weren't inventing anything, but they had to spend three hours a night on physics and other advanced science homework. The writers fooled around with poetry and short stories.

Merrillville offered such a host of classes in each area that students were able to become specialized in more than one area. Biologists took chemistry courses, mechanics took building trades, musicians studied art and journalists took writing courses.

With this core of training, any Merrillville student could easily switch careers later on in life.

As with Bilbo Baggins famous parting words in "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien, "Still round the corner there may wait a new road or a secret gate; and though I oft have passed them by, a day will come at last when I shall take the hidden paths that run West of the Moon, East of the Sun."

Chris Sikich

Looking Deeper

PEOPLE

Aimone, David Joel FHA '10
Football 9; NJHS 9; Pirate Radio 12; PNN 12; Quest 12; SADD 12; WMHS 10; Wrestling 10 **Albee, Keith, Alexander, Willis W.**
Aliff, Thomas Matthew Cross Country 10; Lt. Captain 12; Natural Helpers 11, 12; Teacher Ade 11; Track 9, 10, 11, 12 **Allen, Twanna L.** Band 9, 10, 11, 12; FFA 9, 10, MCATF 10; Natural Helpers 9, 10; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12; Spanish Club 9; 10; Student Trainer 10, 11, 12; Teacher Ade 11, 12.



Anderson, Jessica Lynne CPC 12; Drama Club 10, 11, 12; Fall Play 11, 12; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12; Revue 11, 12; Show Choir 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 10, 11, 12; Thespians 11, 12; VocalTeeers 12 **Anderson, Ma'Rion** Basketball 9; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 12 **Andreatos, Angela** FFA 9, 10, 11, 12; Office Ade 10; Powder Puff 9, 10 **Aponte, Yasmin** Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Debate 9; Spanish Club 9; Pep Band 9; Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12 **Argue, Amanda** Powder Puff 11; Quest Officer 10, 11, 12; Teacher Ade 12



Azcona, Andrea HERO 12 **Bailey, Jamie** CPC 12; Natural Helpers 10, 11, 12; Powder Puff 10, 11, 12; SAC 11, 12; Student Govt 11, 12 **Balcerak, Bradley M.** Baseball 9; Basketball 9, 10; CPC 12; Cross Country 10, 11; Captain 12; Football 9; Prom Court 11; Revue 11, 12; SADD 12; Student Govt 9, 10; Officer 11, 12; Track 10, 11, 12 **Balcerak, Nick**. **Banham, Tim**.



Banks, Nathan Genes Club 10; Police Cadet 9, 10, 11, 12; Civil Air Patrol 12; **Barber, Al** Basketball 9; Debate 10, 11, 12; Revue 10, 11, 12; Speech 10, 11, 12 **Barman, Ryan**. **Barnett, Emily Elizabeth** Chor 9, 10, 11, 12; Drama Club 9; Office Ade 12; Pom-poms 10, 11, 12; Show Chor 12; Student Govt 12 **Beaty, Tamara** Band 9, 10, 11, 12; HERO 12; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12



Bergstrom, James R. Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Jazz Impact 9, 10, 11, 12; Orchestra 12; Revue 9, 10, 11, 12; Teacher Ade 12; Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12 **Berkman, Jennifer** Basketball Homecoming Princess 9; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12; Softball 9, 10, 11; Teacher Ade 11, 12 **Berry, Christina** HERO 12; **Bertolo, Angela** CWC Officer 11, 12; Environmental Club 10, 11; Natural helpers 11, 12; Student Govt 10, 11, 12; Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12 **Best, Lehman H.** Cross Country 9, 10, 11; FCA 9, 10, 11, 12; Key Club 9, 10, 11; Officer 12; Quest 9, 10; Speech 9, 10; Swimming 12; Teacher Ade 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12



Bewley, Ted Teacher Ade 12; **Bish, Stacia Marie** Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Teacher Ade 11, 12 **Black, Elisabeth**. **Blacknell, Jovan** Academic Decathlon 12; Basketball 9, 10, Captain 11, 12; Tennis 9, Track 11, 12; **Blondeel, Nicole C.** FFA 11, 12; Powder Puff 11; Teacher Ade 11, 12; Yearbook 12.



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1997

Boromisa, Valerie Powder Puff 12.
Student Govt 11, Teacher Ade 10, 12. Volleyball 9.

Bowden, Andrew, Boyleen, David Football Mgr 11. **Braden, Amber L.** Band 10, 11; Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12. CPC 12, FEA 11, Officer 12, Natural Helpers 11, 12. Powder Puff 9, Student Govt. 9, 10, 11, 12.

Brasovan, Nicholas S.
Bright, Rachel K. Academic Decathlon 12, Band 9, 10, CWC 11, Drama Club 11, Officer 12, Fall Play 12, French Club 9, 10, MHS 9, 10, NHS 11, 12, Peer Advisor 10, 11, 12, Beta 11, 12, French 12, Spring Musical 11, 12, Super Quiz Team 11, 12, Thespians Officer 12, Jazz Impact 9. **Brothers, Melissa, Brown, Jeremiah**

Soccer 9

Brown, Stacey Marie CPC 12, French Club 9, Prom Committee 11, Speech 9, Student Govt 10, 11, 12, Swimming 10, 11, 12, Teacher Ade 12. **Track 10, Yearbook 12, Brown, Yoledyah, Bruner, Marc**
Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12, CPC 12, Football 9, PNN 11, 12, Q & S 11, Officer 12, Spell Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, WMSHS 12, Super Fans 12. **Buchko, Jeffrey J.** Football 9, NHS 11, 12, SADD 12, Teacher Ade 12.

JOVAN BLACKNELL

A little eight year old's dream, to be in the NBA spotlight just like Mike. But this little eight year-old did get to be in the spot light, in the IHSAA Basketball Finals in 1995.

Jovan Blacknell saw himself as hard working student and gave 100% all the time. When he was asked what it was like to be an unsung hero of the basketball team his modesty spoke for him, "I do not know if I am a hero. I do my part to help the team win. Some players get a lot of publicity and others do not."

He valued his family and friends first, then came his grades and basketball.

The biggest influences in Jovan's life were his sister and brother. "My brother is the one who got me started playing basketball. And my sister was an honor student at MHS and now is a student at NYU."

When Jovan had free time out of school he enjoyed going to the movies with any girl that would go with him.

His most embarrassing moment was when he played for an AAU team. "We were one of the best teams in the state, and were playing a game that was not very good. One of the kids on the team had a fast break. I tried to block it. He turned and shot it backwards, and he hit the shot."

Jovan's dream car would be a Blazer-type vehicle that he would drive around where people could see. He enjoyed school because he got to see friends and meet people. He also planned to go to college and be a marketing major. "If I go to college on a scholarship to a division I school, I will play, if not I won't."

"I like working with numbers," remarked Jovan when he was asked what his favorite subject in school was. His favorite teacher was Mr. Steiner who taught at Harrison, but had died three years ago. His favorite teacher now is Mr. Dunscombe.

■ Don DeLong



9

Amanda Margaret Buda
Environmental Club 10; Newspaper 12; Pom-poms 9, 10
Captain 11; Teacher Aide 11
Steven Bugg. Robert Buggs.
Kathryn A. Burdett Flag Corps 12;
Powder Puff 10, 11, 12.

10

Kristine Anne Burke Basketball 9, 10,
11, 12; Cross Country 12; Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide
11, 12; Twirler for Band 9; Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12
Robert Allen Burkus Wrestling 9, 10
Jason Byars Football 9, 10
Jasmine Calo.

11**12****1997**

Canery, Sarah Jayne Soccer 9, 10, 11
12; Teacher Aide 12 **Camisa,**

Christopher Jason Band 9, 10, 11, 12.
Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Fall Play 9, 10; FEA 9, FHA 9;
German Club 11, 12; Jazz Impact 9, 12; MCAF 10; Pep
Club 9, 10; Pirate Radio 9, 10; PRIDE 9, 10; Reindeer 9, 11, 12;
Speech and Debate 9, 10, 11, 12; Model UN 11, 12; SADD 9, 10; Student
Govt. 9, 10, 11, 12; WMHS 9, 10; Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12.
Auditorium Crew 9, 10, 11 **Campbell, Ryan**
Office Aide 10, 11, 12 **Carter, Samuel**
Football 12; Morning Announcer 12; Revue 10, 11, 12.
Speech 10, 11, 12; Track 12



MARC BRUNER

"[I don't respect] People who don't do what they think is right. Who give into pressure and think that they are better than others because of it."

These were just some of the things that upset Mark Bruner, '97. His strong opinions and positive attitude helped make up the complex and competitive character that he was.

With a part on the state-runner up baseball team and high aspirations of being a broadcast journalist, he had various goals to look forward to. With these accomplishments and goals in mind, he used his stubbornness and strong beliefs to strive for even more.

Bruner's time was consumed by the sport of baseball. Bruner had played throughout high school, and basically his whole life. He even spent the summer perfecting his game. He was so passionate about this game that he didn't appreciate people ripping on it.

"I think people who say they don't like it, don't understand the finer points of the game."

Bruner found plenty of time to make academics a strong priority in his life. English and broadcasting were his favorite subjects.

He commented, "I like broadcasting because I want to be a T.V. or radio journalist. I like English because I like to write, and it'll help me in journalism."

He also added that he liked English because "Mr. Woods and Mrs. Fry both make me laugh."

He hoped to someday work in radio or in television, leaning more toward the news.

"I would like to be a sports anchor. More preferably I would like to have a sports talk show or work on ESPN."

With all these qualities and a strong attitude, he may one day be recapping the World Series on ESPN.

■ **By Stephanie Nicolini**





Celesti, Chris Football 9; Soccer 11.
12; Wrestling 9, 10. **Cesare, Michael.**
Cesljarev, Vesna. Chandler,
Melanie. **Clark, Corby.**



Clark, Matthew. Clark,
Melissa Danielle Natural Helpers
10, 11, 12. **Pom-pons 9, 10, 11.** **Clark,**
Robert FHA 12. **Cole, Lena D.**
Basketball 9, 10; Revue 11; Soccer 10, 11, 12; Teacher
Aide 11. **Cole, Nicole Leigh**
Drama Club 10, 11; French Club 10, 11, 12; Student
Govt. 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 11



Collins, Randall R. Cheerleading
11, 12; German Club 9; Officer 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 10.
Colon, Cara Dance Chor 9, 10, 11.
12; Drama Club 9, 10; Officer 11, 12; Fall Play 9, 10, 11;
French Club 9, NHS 11, 12; Revue 11, Show Chor 11,
12; Spring Musical 11, 12; Teacher Ade 10.
Thespians 9, 10, 11, 12. **Connolly, Natalie A.** Pom-pons 9, 10,
11; Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12; Teacher Ade 10, 11, 12.
Connolly, Cheresce E. Powder
Puff 9. **Coppinger, Alex** FHA 11, 12;
Teacher Ade 10



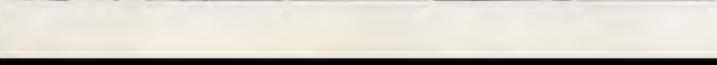
Coughlin, Mike Band 9, 10, 11, 12;
Basketball 9, 10; Football 9; Jazz Impact 9, 10, 11;
Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Govt. 10, 11, 12.
Swimming 11, 12. **Creviston, Ryan.**
Cruz, Cheo. Culbertson,
Paul. Damjanoski, Sonja
Band 9, 10; NHS 11, 12.



Davis, Myesha Band 10, 11; French
Club 10, 11; HERO 12.
De Long, Don CWC 12; Football 9, 10,
12; Newspaper 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 9, 10, 11; Yearbook
12; PUSH 12; Honor Council 9, 10; Super Fan 12.



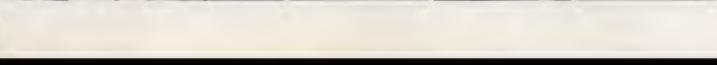
Decm, Janell Marie Drama Club
11, 12; Fall Play 12; German Club 9, 10; Officer 11, 12,
NHS 11, 12; Revue 12; Spring Musical 9, 11; Student
Govt. 9; Teacher Ade 11; Thespians 12; Volleyball 10.



Denham, Greg Drama Club 9; Fall
Play 9; German Club 9, 11, 12; Student Govt. 9.
Swimming 10, 11, 12; Thespians 9, 10, 11.
Dericco, Dorin Football 9, 10, 11;
Captain 12; SADD 9; Track 9, 10, 12; Wrestling 11, 12.



Dericco, Ryan Band 9, 10; Football 9;
Spanish Club 9; Student Govt. 9, 10, 12; Teacher
Aide 9, 12; Track 9, 10, 11. **Dickerson,**
Christine Basketball 9, 11; Captain 10, 12;
FCA 9, 10, 12; JETS 12; NHS 11, 12; Soccer 10, 11;
Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball 9.



Dimitroff, Chris Soccer 9, 10.
Captain 11, 12; SADD 12; Teacher Ade 12.
Dimoff, Samantha Elizabeth beth
Basketball 9, 10; NHS 11, 12; Teacher Ade
12; Tennis 10, 11; Captain 12; Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12.
Dixon, Megan Megan Basketball 9; Chor 9,
10, 11; FEA 9, 10; French Club 9, 10; Golf 9, 10; Teacher
Aide 9, 10, 11, 12; Tennis 9.

Dobis, Jamie Veronica CPC 12;
FEA 10, 11; Officer 12; FHA 12; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12.
Teacher Aide 11, 12.



Doneski, Bogoja. Downs, David Robert Basketball 9, 10; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Morning Announcer 12; NHS 11, 12; Prom Court 11.



Drobac, Susan B. French 11, 12; JETS 12; Key Club 9, 10, 11; Powder Puff 11, 12.

Teacher Aide 12 **Dzunda, Brandon Lee** CPC 12; Football 9; SADD 12.

Student Govt. 10, 11, 12.

Eastlee, Chris Football 9, 10;
Newspaper 12; SADD 12; Student Govt. 10, 11, 12.

Yearbook 12 **Emmanoilidis, Alexandra Aleka** MCATF 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Powder Puff 9, 11, 12; SAC 12; SADD Officer 12.

Emmett, Kevin Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12;
Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12. **Ensign, Kyle J.**

Essex, Jennifer German Club 9.

Estes, Ashley Kristin Chor 9, 10,
11, 12; Show Chor 11, 12; Vocal/Treble 12; Revue 11, 12;

Soccer 11; Student Govt. 11, 12; SAC 11, 12; Natural
Helpers 9, 10, 11, 12. **Evans, David**

Wrestling 9, 10, 11. **Fantin, Michael**.

Fashing, John William Soccer
9. **Fastero, Gina Marie**

Cheerleading 10, 11; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12; Prom
Committee 11; Revue 12; SADD 12; Student Govt. 9,
10, 11; Wrestling Mgr. 12; Teacher Aide 11, 12; Track 11,

12.



Fedak, Neal Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12.

Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Football 9; MPAC 11, 12.

Fernandez, Lisandra. Filan, Michael. Forster, Kari

Basketball 9, 10; CPC 12; Soccer 9, 11, 12; Captain 10;
SAC 9, 10, 11, 12; SADD Officer 12; Student Govt. 10,
Officer 11, 12; Softball Mgr. 10; Volleyball 9; MCSC
Advisory Council 11, 12; PBAT 11.

Foster,

John Gabriel FEA 9, 10, 12; French Club
11, 12; Golf 11; Prom Committee 11; Track 12; Super
Fan 11, 12.



Fresh, Dimitric Ramon.

Frevert, Danny. Frey, Brian Cross Country 9; SAC 10, 11, SADD 12; Track 9.

Frink, Sarah R. Basketball 9, Chor 9,
10, 11; FEA 10; MPAC 11, 12; Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Teacher

Aide 12; Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12. **Frost,**

Cheryl.



Gabriel, Kenneth Key Club 12;
Office Aide 9, 10; Quest 11, 12; Teacher Aide 11.

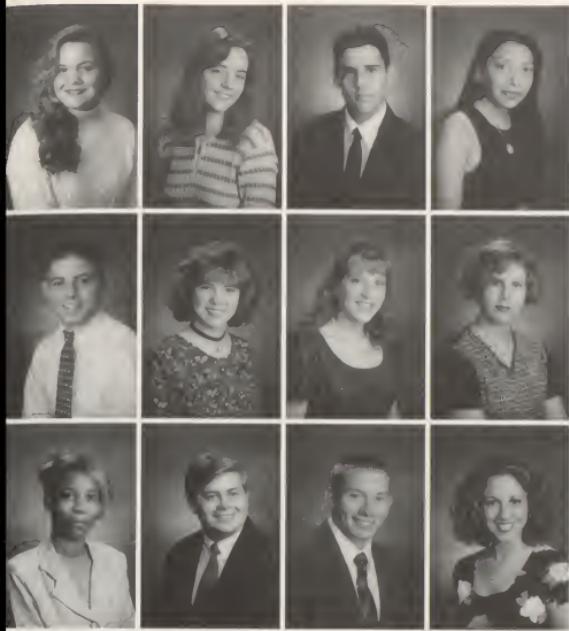
Gallardo, Destinie COE 12; Revue
11. **Gallardo, Erica** HERO 12; Revue

11. **Gallimore, Catherine E.** CPC 12; French Club 12; NHS 11, 12; Pom-poms 9, 10,
11; Prom Committee 11; Student Govt. 10, 11, 12; Teacher

Aide 12. **Galvan, Kristen**

Renac Teacher Aide 10, 12.





Ganga, Christina M. FEA 10,
HERO 12 **Garai, Eszter** Foreign
Exchange Student from Hungary 12 **Garcia,**
Jonathan Baseball 9; Diving 11; Swimming 11;
Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12 **Garcia, Maricela**
Chor 10, 12; NHS 11, 12; Powder Puff 12

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1997

Gibson, Onique S. BPA 12
Gill, Jim Golf 10; Key Club 9, 10, 11, 12
Giordano, Joseph Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12;
Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 12 **Gonzalez,**
Deanna Band 9; Cheerleading 11; FCA 10, 11, 12;
Football Homecoming Queen 12; Pirate Radio 10, 11, 12;
PHN 10, 11, 12; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12; Prom Committee
11; Softball 9, 10, 11; Teacher Ade 11; VMHS 10, 11;
Producer 12; Yearbook 12

SAM CARTER

In anticipation of his future as a comedian, Sam Carter, '97, made his goal for his senior year to "succeed in every activity I participate in." He enjoyed entertaining people because, "I'm a ham," he explained. Being a comedian had been one of his childhood dreams. He enjoyed doing standup comedy and was good at improvisation. In an interview for his journalism class, Carter commented, "I would like to be the next Bill Cosby."

If he got his own television sitcom, he said the plot would be about him and his brother, Al Barber, and their lifelong situations. He added, "This would be very funny."

One of Carter's other career choices was to be an actor. He would like to do action/adventure and dramatic parts as well as comedic roles.

He was active on the Speech and Debate team to help him with his acting. He said that, "It helps you work hard, and it is more intense than drama." On the speech team Carter competed in the Duo Interpretation category with Barber. In his first year on the team, the pair went to state and placed sixth qualifying for nationals. At nationals the brothers placed sixteenth. Their senior year the award winning duo started the season late, yet they still qualified for state and missed qualifying for nationals by a few points.

Reading the morning announcements allowed Carter the chance to display his talents for the student body. He also showcased his talent in the annual Revue, serving as Master of Ceremonies his senior year in addition to performing.

Carter also competed on the football team and ran track. "I've never imagined ever wanting to play ball until I played for Merrillville. I realized the discipline and teamwork involved in this sport, and I like it."

Nevertheless, this sometimes class clown also had a serious side. He planned to attend the University of Indianapolis to study drama and "something else too - just in case." ■ **Megan Shelton**



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Gonzalez, Eddie HERO 12
 Gonzalez, Nicolas S. Band 9, 10, 11, 12.
 Class Officer 12, CPC 12, Jazz Impact 10, 11, 12, JETS 11,
 12, Morning Announcer 12, NHS 11, 12, Pirate Radio 11,
 12, Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12, Spanish 11, 12, Student
 Govt 11, 12, Basketball Mgr 12, WHS 11, Super Bowl 9,
 10, 11, 12, Gregory, Erik, Guajardo, Juan.

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Guardiola, Elizabeth Marie
 FEA 10, SADD 12, Sunshine 9, Guardiola,
 Joseph, Gutierrez, Amy.
 Hac, Jason.

11**12**

1997

Halcarz, Frank S. III Band 9, Football
 9, 10, 11, French Club 11, 12, JETS 10, 11, 12, NHS 11, Officer
 12, SAIC 11, 12, Student Govt, 11, 12, Track & PBA 11, 12
 MCSC Advisory Council 12, Rube Goldberg 12

Hall, Nichole, Hamilton,
 Richard Football 9, NHS 11, 12, Hanson,
 Eric Swimming 10



KYLE ENSIGN

Kyle Ensign was not only a champion bowler, but also a very good auto technician.

In the category of bowling he averaged about a 190 to a 200 score. He had won many trophies, plaques, and other awards. He ended up placing second in the State tournament.

He practiced every Saturday at the bowling alley. He was one of the best bowlers in the league.

He was so confident of his abilities that he often offered to bowl against people for hundreds of dollars. He gave them a hefty handicap, but unfortunately, there were never any challengers.

He was also involved in fixing his truck.

In the future he hoped to go to Nashville Auto Diesel College. To do this he had already had taken an auto shop class. Once he graduated from college, he planned to open his own business in auto repair.

Even though he was involved in both of these activities he had enough time to spend with either his girlfriend, Sara Stupic, or with his other friends, Brian Chapman, Jim Gill, John Fashing, and Jeff Mortonson.

He had an 85 GMC Jimmy full size four by four. When it broke down he decided to restore the body and rebuilt the motor. After getting the body restored and the motor rebuilt he decided to put all new interior in it.

One of the things Ensign liked most about auto shop was he loved old cars and the new technology involved.

He was also helping his dad build a racing car. They were using spare parts from several junkers and ordering thousand of dollars of new equipment to get the car rolling.

They have their own garage in the backyard to help assist in all of their car repairs.

You'll never catch an Ensign going to an auto mechanic.

Cathy Sneson and Chris Sikich





Hargrove, Derrick. Harms,
John Paul Cross Country 10, 11, 12, MPAC
11, 12, NHS 11, 12, Tennis 9, Track 9, 10, 11, 12
Harness, Annette Pom-poms 9, 10.
12, Captain 11, Prom Committee 11. Hatfield,
Brian Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12
Haussman, Brian Debate 10, 11, 12.
NHS 11, 12, Speech 10, 11, 12, GAPP 11



Hayes, Kimberly Chor 11, 12, CWC
11, Drama Club 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 10, 11, 12, French Club
10, 11, 12, Private Radio 10, 11, 12, PNN 10, 11, 12, Speech
10, Spring Musical 10, 11, 12, Teacher Ade 12.
Thespians 11, 12, WMHS 10, 11, 12. Haynes,
Shauna. Henderson,
Kendra. Hennington, Billee
French Club 10, 12, Speech 11, 12. Hoagland,
Barbara Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12, Chor 9, 10,
11, 12, FEA 12, Football/Homecoming Court 12.
Basketball/Homecoming Court 9, NHS 11, 12, Natural
Helpers 10, 11, 12, Show Chor 10, 11, 12, SADD 12.
Tennis 9, 10, 11, Vocal/Tearns 10, 11, 12



Hodgetts, Kathryn Rose
FEA 9, 10, Officer 12, Teacher Ade 11, 12
Hoffman, Britton M. Basketball
9, Chor 9, 10, 11, 12, Football 9, Show Chor 9, 10, 11, 12.
Student Govt. 10, 11, 12, Teacher Ade 12, Vocal/Tearns
10. Hogan, Michelle. Cross
Country Captain 9, 10, 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, Office Ade
10, Track 9, 10, 11, Hollingsworth,
Donny, Holmes,
La'Lakesha D. M., Band 9, 10, 11, 12.
Drama Club 11, 12, Fall Play 11, FCA 9, 10, 11, 12, Revue
11, 12, Speech 11, 12, SAC 12



Hooks, Angelic M. Powder Puff 12.
Howard, Angelo R. Football 9, 10, 11.
Hughes, LaToi. cheerleading 9, 10,
11, Captain 12, Chor 10, 11, FEA 10, 11, 12, Football
Homecoming Court 12, Basketball/Hockey
Court 11, Show Chor 10, 11, 12, Prom Court 11, SADD 12.
Student Govt. 9, 10, 11, 12. Hussey,
Crystal Rose Powder Puff 11, 12, Teacher
Ade 12. Hutnick, Kevin.



Igboegwu, Ekeoma Academic
Decathlon 12, Chor 11, FCA 12, Teacher Ade 11.
Igboegwu, Ekeoma Academic
Decathlon 12. Ilievski, Pete Football 9,
10, 11, 12. Jackson, Julie NHS 11, Office
Ade 12, Powder Puff 11, 12, SADD 12
Jacobs, Steve.



Jelinek, Karianne. Jenkins,
Kellie M. FEA 10, 12, Gymnastics 9, 10, 11.
Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12, SADD 12, Teacher Ade 11, 12.
Jensen, Sarah Marie FHA 10.
Teacher Ade 12. Johnson, Beatrice.
Johnson, Jennifer Class Officer 10,
CPC 12, FEA 12, FHA 9, 10, 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, Office
Ade 12, Pom-poms 9, 10, Prom Committee 11, SAC 10, 11,
12, SADD 12, Student Govt. 9, 10, 11, 12, Officer 11, 12.
Teacher Ade 10, 12, Volleyball 9

Jones, Dymeata Art Club Office 9, 10.
1st French Club 11. HERO 12. Football Homecoming
Court 12. Revue 12. Teacher Aide 12. **Jones,**
Shannon, Joselyn, Jeremy.
Josten, Erin, Jusko,
Rebekah Band 9. Chor 10. FCA 10, 12.
Basketball Homecoming Court 9. Princess 10, 11.
PNN 12. Prom Queen 11. Revue 11, 12. Soccer 10, 11, 12.
Softball 11. Student Council 11. SADD Officer 12.
Student Govt 9, 10, 11, 12. Teacher Aide 11. Track 12.
Volleyball 9. WMHS 11, 12.



Kalogeras, Niki, Kapanka,
Kristen Chor 9, 10, 11. Soccer 11. Student
Govt 11. **Kasiak, Paul Edward**
Art Club 9. SADD 12. Wrestling 9.
Kazonis, Emmanuel John
Soccer 10. **Keene, David** Baseball 9.
Basketball 9. Boulder's Club 11, 12.



Keilman, Robert Thomas
Football 9. **Kelaita, Sarah** Key Club
11. **Kelsey, David** Boulder's Club 11, 12.
Kenney, Cindy Lou Speech 9, 10.
Kimmet, Nicole Michelle
Chor 9, 10. Flag Corps 9, 10. Pom-poms 9, 10.
Powder Puff 9, 10. Quest 9, 10, 12.



Kirk, Amanda Katherine
Chor 9, 10. Basketball Homecoming Court 10. Key
Club 9. Natural Helpers 11. Office Aide 11. Powder
Puff 9. Student Govt 11. **Kisser, Justin**,
Super Fan 11, 12. Yearbook 11.
Kljajic, Nemanja.
Kolodziej, Sandra, Kora,
Lucas.



Krisko, Macgan, Krumrie,
Angela, Lair, Melissa,
Lamb, Angela, Lambert,
Rebecca.



Lampkin, Tomeka Debate 12.
MCAT 11. Powder Puff 12. Track 10, 11, 12.
Lee, Paul, Lentz, Shannon,
Lepley, Jennifer Art Club 12. Band 9,
10, 11, 12. Quest 11. **Levitt, Jaime** Flag
Corps 10. Captain 11, 12. Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12.
Sunshine 10. Winter Guard 10.





Lewis, Danny. Lind, John.
Lipp, Hillary. Lohse,
Heather Anne NHS 9,10, NHS 11,12
Natural Helpers 11,12, Powder Puff 9,10,11,12; Softball
9,10,11; Student Govt. 9,10,11,12; Teacher Aide 12.

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1997

Long, Krisandra Diane Art Club

12; Band 9,10,11,12; Quest 10,11; Pep Band 9,10

Long, Ruby Cross Country 11; Captain 12;

Powder Puff 11; Student Trainer 11,12; Track 10,11,12

Ludwig, Richard Wrestling 10

Luedtke, Heather Dawn Band 9,

10,11,12; Environmental Club 10,11; Gymnastics 9;

Teacher Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 11,12;

Spring Musical 11

Luevano, Marisa. Malast,

Kristina Marie CPC 12; NHS 11,12

Office Aide 11; Pomm-pon 9,10,11; Captain 12; Prom

Committee 11, Q & S 12; Student Govt. 10,11,12

Yearbook 12

Mallory, Greg Boulder's

Club 11,12; FCA 9,10; Football 9,10,11,12; SADD 12

Track 9,10

Malocha, Matt Baseball 9;

Football 9; Golf 10,11,12

MIKE FANTIN

Since Mike Fantin had no job so he said, "I'm a loser; I have no job." He spent most of his time with Rich Demo for their band 25 Mic. He explained, "25 Mic is more of an outfit than a band. It's a new way of life."

He described the music as a combination of trance and industrial, mixed with a little ambient. "One day 25 Mic will rule the underground world, and then later sell out to a new product."

At night though was a different story. "I like to curl up to a good movie, as in my favorite, Evil Dead 2," was all he would say.

Fantin had no clue what he wanted to do after graduation. "I really don't know what I'm going to do in the future. I don't even know what I'm going to do tomorrow."

When Fantin was asked to describe himself, he said, "It's best to leave things unexplained." Most of all, just just tried to keep everything plain and simple.

However, many students know him as the guy who roams the halls with a dog collar on.

Nevertheless, this school would have been even weirder if Mike Fantin had got his wish. "I wish for 420 circus midgets roaming the halls with mushroom hats on."

He also had some other strange ideas.

He commented, "I hope to become more politically incorrect. I'm the only normal one, and it's everyone else that is insane, but in a hundred years, we'll all be dead anyways. So who really cares."

When he get tired of his own company Fantin hangs out with friends. "When there was absolutely nothing to do, there was also a nice cup of java at Denny's, or there was Dave's back porch."

A final thought from Fantin, " If I am not wasted, the day is ambient musak!"

■Erin McDermott



9

Mandich, Lindsay Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12
Manning, Steven, **Martinez, Celeste Ann** BPA 12; Natural Helpers 10, 11.
 12; Powder Puff 12; Prom Court 11; Revue 11
Maull, Elizabeth M. Art Club 10, 11.
 12; CWC 12; FEA 11, 12; HERO 12

10

Mazany, Mark. Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12.
Mc Adoo, Michelle.
Mc Cann, Christina.
Mc Donald, Nicole J. Cheerleading 9,
 11; Captain 10; Natural Helpers 11.

**11**

Mc Lain, Shaun. Mc Mullin,
Francis. Meeks, Kelly.
Megyesi, Lori Art Club 10; Drama Club 9,
 10, 11; Officer 12; Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12; Natural Helpers 10, 11,
 12; Revue 10, 11; Science Olympiad 11, 12; Spring Musical
 9, 10, 11, 12; Thespians 9, 10, 11, 12.

**12****1997**

AMARACHI IGBOEGWU

Do you know anyone who lived in Nigeria? If you know Amarachi Igboegwu you do.

She was born in the United States along with her sister Ekeoma. Her real home was in Nigeria with her brother Emeka and sisters Chibuzo and Chidimma. She also said her mother was a clinical psychologist.

She commented, "Nigeria is in many ways like the United States" She remembered watching *Santa Barbara*, *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, and *the Simpsons*. "And yes, there is cable T.V." said Amarachi.

Most people thought that Africa was a country where wild animals run freely and that there were no roads or televisions. Amarachi and her sister were here to prove everyone wrong. Most teenagers in Africa were the same as in the United States. The music was similar, but they also had different types from Nigeria. There was Fuji, Afro-juju, Highlife, and Reggae, just to name a few. The boys there wore jeans and most girls wore skirts to appear more feminine.

The school she attended, Queens School, was much like the schools here. She was vice president on the Zonta Club, an all girls and women's club. Amarachi also was a member of the literary and debating club, and assistant editor of the press club.

Since she was active back home she continued to join clubs at MHS, such as the Multi-cultural Awareness Task Force, the Student Advisory Council, and served as a homeroom representative to Student Government. She also competed on academic teams.

Next year, she planned to attend Purdue University-Calumet and major in Political Science and minor in French. Then, she wanted to attend law school.

"I hope to become an honest lawyer and to really push to the limit on the ambassador to France for my country or the United States," concluded Amarachi.

■ Natalie Nimon





Meissler, Susan. Mickey,
Tiffany Bianca FEA 9.12. SADD 12
Mihal, Joe Art Club 9. FCA 9.10. Football 9.
10. Key Club 9. Teacher Aide 11. Wrestling 9. 10.11.
Mikulich, Guy. Milic,
Violet.



Milisavljevish, Sarah Marie
Chor 9. PFA 12. Key Club 9. Show Chor 10. 11. 12.
Student Govt 10. 11. Teacher Aide 12.
Miller, Angie. Miller,
Christopher. Miller, John
S. III Academic Decathalon 12. Class Officer 10.
11. 12. Debate 9. Environmental Club 10. 11. 12. Foot ball
9. JETS 11. 12. Natural Helpers 9. 10. 11. NHS 11. 12.
Orchestra 9. 10. 11. 12. Quiz Bowl 11. Soccer 9. 10. 11.
Captain 12. SAC 10. 11. 12. Student Govt 9. 10. 11. 12.
Super Quiz 9. 10. 11. 12. MPAC 11. Ruebe Goldberg 12.
Minton, Eric Samuel Ray
BPA 12.



Moes, Chris NHS 11. 12.
Montemayor, Michael A.
Montgomery, Melba.
Montgomery, Raymond Band
9. 10. Football 9. Moody, Paul
Robert Football 11. 12. Track 11. 12.



Moor, Nicole R. Chor 10 FEA 10.
Natural Helpers 11. 12. Newspaper 12. Powder Puff 10.
Q & S 12. Show Chor 10. Student Govt 10. 11. 12.

Moore, Joe Class Officer 9. 10. 11. CPC
12. Chor 9. 10. 11. 12. FEA 11. 12. JETS 10. 11. 12. MPAC
11. 12. NHS Officer 9. 10. NHS Officer 11. 12. Prom
Committee 11. Quiz Bowl 11. Rethinking Committee
10. 11. 12. Review 11. 12. Show Chor 9. 10. 11. 12. SAC 9.
10. 11. 12. Revue 11. 12. Show Chor 9. 10. 11. 12. Super
Quiz 9. 10. 11. 12. Interact 9. 10. 11. 12. Track 12.
Vocal/Tenor 10. 11. 12. From Court 11. Super Bowl 9. 10.
11. 12. Girls Tennis Mgr 11. 12. Ruebe Goldberg 11. 12.

Morgan, Carly Ann Chor 9. 10. 11.
12. NHS 9. Powder Puff 1-11. Show Chor 10. 11. 12.
Softball 10. SADD 12. Student Govt 11. 12. Teacher
Aide 11. Moriarty, Jef.
Mortenson, Jeffrey.



Mote, Natalie Nanette Chor 9.
10. COE 12. Murphy, Lashawn.
Myszkowski, Nicole D.
Nalborski, Michael Football 9.
10. 11. 12. Newspaper 12. Nicolini,
Stephanie Anne Environmental Club
10. MPAC 11. 12. Q & S 12. Swimming 9. 10. 11. Captain
12. Teacher Aide 12. Track 9. 10. 11. Yearbook 12.



Nielson, Lora. Niezgoda,
Kelly. Nimon, Natalie
Marie Football Homecoming Court 12.
Basketball Homecoming Court 11. Powder Puff 12.
Prom Court 11. Revue 9. Spanish Club 9. 10. Student
Govt. 9. 10. 11. Teacher Aide 12. Volleyball 9. 10. NHS
11. 12. SADD Officer 12. Student Govt 11. 12.
Oliver, James Football 9.

Pace, Montell Band 9; Basketball 9.

Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 10, 11, Captain 12.

Pagel, Melissa Newspaper 12; Powder

Puff 9, 10, 11; Teacher Aide 12. Palmateer,
Randy. Paniaguas, Nicole.
Parker, Devon.



Parker, Philip. Paulson,
Jaime Lynn NHS 11; Office Aide 10; SADD
12; Teacher Aide 10. Pearson, Max.
Peasant, Julius. Pejoski,
John.



Peluyera, Edwin. Peppas,
Julianne. Perez, Michelle

Art Club 9; CPC 12; Debate 9, 11, 12; FEA 10; JETS 11,
12; MCNA 11; NHS 9, 10, 11, 12; Office 12; PNW 12;
Powder Puff 9, 10, 11; QM 10; SADD 12; Student Govt 11, 12;
Science Olympiad 12; Speech 10, 11; Student

Govt 9, 10, 11; Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12.

Perkins, Everett. Pero,

Kimberly Dawn Cheerleading 9, 10,
11, 12; Chor 10, 11, 12; FEA 11, 12; NHS 9, 10; NHS 11, 12;
Natural Helpers 10, 11, 12; Revue 10; Show Chor 10, 11,
12; SAC 9, 10; Student Govt 11, 12.



Peschke, Shawn Band 9, 10, 11, 12;
Jazz Impact 9, 10, 11; Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Marching

Band 9, 10, 11, 12. Peters, Dana.

Pieroni, April L. French Club 9, 11,
Officer 12; Student Govt 9, 10, 11, 12; Swimming 9, 10,
11; Captain 12; Teacher Aide 10, 12. Pierson,

Michael I B. Football 9; Natural Helpers 9,
10; Wrestling 9, 10, 12. Pinnell,
Shalaine Carolyn Art Club 11, 12.



Plantz, Melissa. Poholarz,
Courtney. Polonczyk,
Melissa CWC 10; Officer 11; NHS 11, 12.

Yearbook 11; Literary Mag Editor 11.

Pozniak, Jennifer Lynn Class
Officer 10; Chor 9, 10; Key Club 12; SAC 10; Student
Govt 9, Officer 10; Football Mgr 9; Teacher Aide 10
Prgomelja Jennie.



Price, Deanna Lynn Choir 11;
Drama Club 9; Officer 12; Flag Corps 9,
Choreographer 9, 10, 11; NHS 11, 12; Community 9, 10,
11, 12; Pep Band 9, 10; Show Chor 9, 12; Spring

Musical 9, 10, 11, 12; Thespians 10, 11, 12; Vocal Ensembles
12. Price, Donte Basketball 9, 10.

Captain 11, 12. Procter, Carolina

Teresa Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Morning
Announcer 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Office Aide 12;
Softball 9, 10, 11, 12. Pruzin, Bart.

Quenett, Dustin.





Ramos, Jenny. Ramsey, Crystal Chor 10, 12; Fall Play 9; FHA 12; Natural Helpers 10, 11, 12; Quest 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 11
Rathburn, Mike Football 9; Newspaper 12; Revue 10; Tennis 11; Wrestling 9
Reberg, Megan.

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1997

MICHELLE PEREZ

Have you ever wondered where Michelle Perez was after school? If you have you didn't have to look that far because she was usually here at MHS.

Perez was actively involved in activities within her school and community. She was the president of the first L.U.L.A.C. youth organization.

This club started with a group of members and continuously grew with the help from Michelle. She got the club to organize food drives, fund raisers, and attend different conventions held to help improve the Hispanic community.

Perez was also a member of Student Government, JETS, the Academic Spellbowl team, National Honor Society, and the Speech and Debate team where she received many awards.

Her favorite thing to do was to figure out the velocity of the people who always walked in front of her on her way to Physics. She calculated that they weren't moving at all.

Physics teacher Jim Vermillion won her vote for the best teacher. He recommended that she attend a summer honors program held at Indiana University in Bloomington in the summer of '96. She stayed there for two months and on occasion was able to return home.

The gifted student planned to attend Rose Hulman Institute of Technology where she planned to major in electrical engineering.

"I think that engineering is the way of the future. So after grad school I should not only make a great engineer, but I'll also be able to set the clock on my VCR," replied Perez.

She replied, "Being a senior is great, really phenomenal. The teachers stop telling you what to do, and start asking how you would do things. Teens find a scarce amount of respect in the world. At least in school people pretend to give you some."

■ Natalie Nimon



9**10****11****12****1997**

Rodriguez, Christine.
 Rodriguez, Thirza. Rogers,
 Jessika Marcella Speech 12.
 Rosaves, Adam.



Rosenwinkel, Christi German Club
 11, 12, Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12, Student Govt 9, 10, Teacher
 Aide 9, 11, 12 Rubino, Jason.
 Rumph, DaVon. Salcedo,
 Stephen PNIN 9, 10, 11, 12, Q & S 10, 11, Officer 12.
 Teacher Aide 12, WMHS 9, 10, Producer 11, 12.



Sanchez, Jessica. Sanchez,
 Veronica Office Aide 9, 10, 11, 12 Teacher Aide 11
 Santelik, William French Club 12, NHS
 11, 12, Natural Helpers 10, 11, Swimming 10, 11, 12.
 Savich, Justin SADD 12



KIMBERLY PERO

Kimberly Pero, '96, earned over fifty trophies in talent performances and beauty pageants in the past fourteen years.

Pero had been doing most of these things since she was three years-old. Pero made the All-American Cheerleading squad in 1996 earning the chance to perform in London, yet she declined.

This young actress/dancer was in the play "The Nutcracker" and had the leading role as Clara. She had been in this production since 1991.

Pero was also a member of the Screen Actors Guild. The SAG is a union in which actors can earn points doing professional work. Actors are not usually inducted into this association until they are adults.

Pero won "Miss Junior America" at the age of twelve. She had been dancing for thirteen years.

In, cheerleading, she enjoyed getting the crowd spirited, whether it was on the basketball court or out on the football field. She was on the cheerleading squad throughout her four years in high school.

She was also a very talented singer and was in her third year of Show Choir.

This has been a very fulfilling life for Pero as well as her school activities and a big sacrifice.

When asked about who her inspiration was, she commented, "There have been a lot of people that I look up to, and who have helped me reach my goals. But I especially thank my mom, for always being there and teaching me".

Pero has reached many of her goals and plans to reach much higher.

■ Deanna Gonzalez





Schell, Karla, Schreiner, Mark Chor 10; Drama Club 10, Fall Play 12; Natural Helpers 11, 12; Pirate Radio 11, 12; PNIN 11, 12; Spring Musical 11, 12; Thespians 12; WMHS 11, 12.
Scott, Shannon Lyn Band 9, 10, 11; Flag Corps 11; Choreographer 12; Jazz Impact 12; NHS 11, 12; Pep Band 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 12.
Szcurko, Amanda HERO 12; NHS 11, 12; Student Govt 9, 10; Swimming 10; Segvich, Sharon Academic Decathlon 12; Band 9, 10; Basketball 9, 10; French Club 10, 11, 12; JETS 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Natural Helpers 11, 12; Office Aide 11; Quiz Bowl 12; SAC 12; Student Govt 10, 11, 12; Super Quiz 10, 11, 12; Volleyball 9, 10, 11.

Sessions, Joshua W. Cheerleading 11, 12; Environmental Club 11, 12; FEA 11, 12; Track 12.
Shapkoff, Kathryn A. Band 9, 10, 11; Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12; FEA 10, 11, 12; SAC 12.
Shudick, Stacey Band 10, 11, 12; Environmental Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Flag Corps 10, 11, 12; PNIN 11, 12.
Shultz, Nichole Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Drama Club 10, Officer 11, 12; Fall Play 11, FEA 9, 10, 11; Officer 12; Office Aide 11, 12; PNIN 11, 12; Show Choir 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 11; Thespians 11.
Sikich, Christopher P. MPAC 11; Newspaper 11, 12; Q & S 12; Swimming 9; Captain 10, 11, 12; Yearbook Editor-in-chief 12.

Sills, Jennifer FHA 9; HERO 12.
Simandl, James, Skura, Maureen German Club 9, 11; Officer 12; GAPP 10, 11; Natural Helpers 11; Powder Puff 10, 11, 12; Prom Committee 11; Teacher Aide 11.
Smith, Angelynn, Smith, Charna Davida Revue 11, 12; Student Govt 11, 12.

Smith, Karin Renee HERO 12.
Snow, Carrie, Solis, Cecilia M., Soneda, Hiroko Foreign exchange student from Japan 12; Sopko, Mandy Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Drama Club 10, 11, 12; FCA 12; PNIN 12; Revue 11, Show Choir 10, 11, 12; Soccer 9, 10, 11; Captain 12; Softball 10; Spring Musical 10, 11, 12; Student Govt 10, 11, 12; VocalTeens 12; Volleyball 9; WMHS 12.



Spanos, John, Spinks, Jason, Springfield, Jennifer Michelle Band 9, 10, 11; Cheerleading 10; Captain 9; HERO 12; Powder Puff 9.
Standifer, Chandra Career Center 11, 12.
Stanzione, Kevin Baseball 9.



Stath, Michael A. Baseball 9; Basketball 9; Football 9, 10, 11; Track 12.
Steeb, Joseph R. Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Jazz Impact 9, 12; Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12; Revue 11; Teacher Aide 11.
Stelter, Melinda Office Aide 12; Teacher Aide 10, 12.
Kelly Deneen Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Powder Puff 12; Revue 11; Teacher Aide 11.
Stochel, T. J. Basketball 9; Key Club 12; NHS 11, 12; Quiz Bowl 12; SADD 10, 12; Student Govt 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 9, 12; Tennis 9, 10, 11; Captain 12.

Stupar, Mike Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 9; Suleski, Zdravko; Sut, Amy; Swanke, Trisha M.; Art Club 9, 10; Environmental Club 10, 11; Officer 12; NHS 9, NHS 11, 12; Teacher Aide 12; Swierc, Kimberly Ann Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Drum Major 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Pep Band 10, 11, 12.



Swims, Jessica L. Choir 9; Office

Aide 10, 12; Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12.

Szaller, John; **Szot, Susan C.** Environmental Club 11; NHS 9; Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12; Taleff, Tanya; Taylor, Felicia Chor 9, 10, 11, 12; Debate 12; Revue 11, 12; Science Olympiad 10, 11; Spring Musical 9, 10, 11.



Taylor, Lisa M.

Taylor, Sarah Ann FEA 10, 11, 12.

French Club 10, 11, 12; Powder Puff 10, 11, 12; Teacher

Aide 12; Tegtmann, Lyndi

Gymnastics 9, 10, 11; Office Aide 11; **Thames, Jeffrey** Band 9, 10, 11; Badminton 9, 10; FEA 9, 10, 11, 12; Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12; Kappa Club 12; Mock Trial 10, 11, 12; Office Aide 12; Drama Club 10, 11, 12; PNW 10, 11, 12; Prom Committee 11; Revue 10, 11, 12.

Wim-His 10, 11, 12; Theobald, Jillian Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country Captain 12; Jazz Impact 11; JETS 12; NHS 11, 12; Student Trainer 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12.



Thiros, Michael Nicholas FEA 9, 10; Natural Helpers 9, 10, 11, 12; SADD 12; Student Govt. 9, 10; Super Fans 11, 12.

Thomas, Barry Debate 11, 12; Football 9; Revue 11, 12; Speech 11, 12; Wrestling 9

Thomas, Eric Basketball 9

Tracy, Deanna Kay Drama Club 9, 10, 11; Fall Play 10; French Club 10, 11, 12; Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 9, 10; Student Govt. 10, 11, 12; Thespians 10; **Trapane, Jennifer**

Lyn Chor 9, 10, 11, 12; FHA 10, 11, 12; French Club 11, 12; Student Govt. 12



Troyer, Jennifer S. Powder Puff 9, 10; SADD 10, 11, 12; Teacher Aide 11; **Tucker, Rashad** Football 12; Track 10, 11, 12

Upshaw, Freddie Band 11

Upshaw, James Band 11, 12

Valse, Stephanie Nicole Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Captain 10, 12; Cross Country 12; MPAC 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Tennis 9, 10, 11; Captain 12; Volleyball 9, 10.



Van Volkenburgh, Jeff Art Club 10; Debate 10, 11, 12; Drama Club 9; Revue 10, 11, 12; Speech 10, 11, 12; Tennis 9; **Vander Tuuk, Douglas Scott** Baseball 9, 10.

Vargas, Eric Joseph Basketball 9, 10; Football 9, 10; Student Govt. 12

Vargas, Jessica A. Basketball 10; Classroom Officer 9; Cross Country 10, 11, 12; JETS 11; MPAC 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Office Aide 11, 12; Teacher Aide 10; Track 9, 10, 11, 12; Captain 12; **Verbik, Robert** Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Jazz Impact 9, 10; Swimming 9, 11

160 ■ People



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1997

Villarreal, JesusFootball 11, 12.
Visuee, Jeanine Patricia Drama
Club 11, 12. Fall Play 11, 12. German Club Officer 12. Key
Club 9, 10, 11, 12. Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12. Pirate Radio 11, 12.
PNV 11, 12. Softball 9, 10, 11. Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12.
Theatres 11, 12. WMHS 11. Producer 12. **Vivo,****Eugene U.** CPC 12. Chor 9, 10, 11, 12. CWC 12.
Cross Country 9, 10, 11. Captain 12. NHS 11. Officer 12.
Revue 9, 10, 11, 12. Show Chor 9, 10, 11, 12. Volleyball 9, 10.
Student Govt. 10, 11, 12. Track 9, 10, 11, 12. Vocal/Treble 9,
10, 11, 12. Mascot 9, 10, 11, 12. **Vlahos,****Stamatios** Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12.**Vranikoski, Ruska.****Vukin, Jennifer B.** Basketball 9, 10.

Chor 9, 10, 11. Teacher Aide 11. Tennis 9. Volleyball 9, 10.

Walker, Jovan Band 9; Tennis 9.**Walker, Michael.****Wall, Shelley. Walla, Emily****Beth** Environmental Club 10, 11, 12. Golf 9, 10.Spanish Club Officer 9. **Waqas, Ali.****Wardell, Nicholas Patrick.**

KIMBERLY SWIERC

If anyone had ever tried to get a hold of Kim Swierc they would have found out it was really hard.

Swierc was a very busy person. She was in quite a few different activities and also managed to hold down a job.

Swierc was very active in the band, so if she wasn't playing her clarinet she was directing the Band of Pirates since she was the Senior Drum Major. The band practiced Tuesdays and Thursdays during the marching season which coincided with the football season. The senior drum major directs the band during marching season. She also leads the band during the parades.

If she was not doing anything with band she was either at a National Honor Society meeting, or she was out bowling.

Swierc was a very private person; she liked to keep her personal information personal. She rarely had much to say about herself; she was perceived as shy by students who didn't know her. She did say that she had two brothers, Chad and Andrew.

If anyone was lucky she would tell them about her two dogs Sam and Lady, too.

Asked about her career plans, she only said she wanted to be an architect. Yet talking to any of her friends gained the information that she had been planning this career for a long time.

Swierc was regarded as a hard working conscientious student who does her work to the best of her ability by most of her teachers. She tended to be quiet in class unless she was volunteering an answer.

She had just a few words of wisdom for other students. "For everyone to do something useful in high school and meet a lot of people."

■ **Cathy Snelson**



9

Wedding, Delphine M. Environmental Club 9, 10; Soccer 9, 10; Mural 9, 12. **Weigl, Nikki S.** Teacher Aide 11, 12. **Welsh, Lisa M.** Art Club 11, 12; Band 9, 10, 11; Prom Committee 11; Spanish Club 9, 10; Pep Band 9, 10, 11. **Wesley, Carl N.** Track 12.

10**11**

Westbury, Thomas.
Whitaker, Brandon. White,
Kelly M. Key Club 9, 11; Officer 10
Williams, Deshaun.

12**1997**

Williams, Stephanie Chor 10, 11;
MCATF 11; NHS 11, 12; Powder Puff 9, 10; Student Govt
11, 12. **Willison, Jason.**
Willison, Katie CWC 12; Diving 10, 11.
NHS 11, 12. **Wisniewski, Kathleen**
Environmental Club 9, 10, 11; JETS 9, 10; NHS 9, 10; NHS
11, 12; Revue 9, 10; Speech 9, 10; Student Govt 9, 10.



EUGENE VIVO

You get to the basketball game in time to see the pregame show, and you look at the floor, but you see someone who isn't a pom-pom, doing the pregame. It is the Pirate Mascot, Eugene Vivo, '97!

"Being the mascot is great, because it's so much fun, and I feel that I spread spirit. Besides that, I get to meet all the cheerleaders and poms from the other teams."

One of Eugene's favorite mascot memories was at basketball semi-state when the North Judson Blue Jay tried to out dance him. Another great mascot moment was when the Merrillville Pirate and the Andean Priest went head to head in an incident that got the Priest suspended.

Eugene is one of the most active student's at MHS. He is involved in Student Government, SADD, Creative writing club, Choir, Show Choir, Vocal Teens, and is the President of National Honor Society. He finds time to exercise his body in cross country, swimming, and track and field, and helps raise spirit by being the pirate mascot. In his "spare time" he holds down a job at The Buckle, and plays the guitar.

He has had a life different from most MHS students. He was born on February 6, 1979 in the Philippines, and then moved to the United States when he was 5 years old.

"It was complete culture shock. The U.S. is so different from the Philippines. Everything changed." Through this experience he gained a strong respect for his mother.

"I admire my mom because she worked hard so I don't have to."

Eugene has obviously inherited her work ethic. He manages not only to hold down all these activities, but stay on top of his school work too. He is ranked in the top ten percent of his class.

His outstanding academic record will help him get into his college of choice, Purdue. His goal is to get a degree in Genetic Engineering.

■ **Stacey Brown**





Zolodz, Paul Band 9, 10, 11, 12.

OFF TO THE RACES
Bill Santelik sprints for the finish in the freestyle at a home meet.



Class of '97 Not Pictured

Amber Allaman. Robert Anderson. Frank J. Arambula NHS 11, 12. Colleen Brzykcy. Bobby Cameron. Larry Chandler. Jamaal L. Davis Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12. Ryan Davis. Dianna Dawson. Heather Dempsey. Nicole Dennis. Christopher Ducret. Joy Dunham. Raul Esparza. Sonia Esparza. Joseph Farley. Marco Flores. Ilija Gjorceski Basketball 12; Basketball Homecoming Court. PNIN 12. Stanko Stevan Gligic Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Quest 10. Stanko Gligic. Elizabeth Gomez. Charles Gonzalez. Stanley Gregory. Jack Grund Jr. William Hahney. Jason Robert Hayes. Johnny Ilija. Tiffany Ann Januszewski Band 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12. Dante Jarrett HERO 12. Cleo Johnson. Kevin Keightley. Crystal Kempa. Joshua Kirby. Jim Klein. Joh P. Koldus. Autumn Komisarcik. Daniel Kontos. Tricia Kuhn. Jamison Lackey. Ilija Lazoski. Robert Lewis. Mike Lindsay Football 9, Soccer 9.

William Logan. Justin Lyons. David Maldonado. Brian Marshall. RaSheeda Maxwell Band 9, 10, 11, 12. Teacher Aide 11. Track 10. Marching Band 9, 10. Shawn Mc Carley. Brenna Mc Keethan. Mike Morrison. Alexander Neskoski. Patrick Nnadi Baseball 12. Allan Nodd Baseball 9. Benjamin Olson. Julius Peasant. Rebecca Pelfrey. William Pinn. Shaw Rainbolt. Jeffrey Rangeloff. Ceasar Recio. Amado Rosas. Adam Ruffle. Corey Saxton. Sean Scott. Shawn Shaffer. Clifford Selmon. Nathan Sickles. Derek Simpson. Sherri D. Smith. Richard A. Sopko. Heather Rene Stanley. Tome Stojcevski. Sarah Therese Sumichrast. Tony Tsahas Football 12. French Club 9. Soccer 11. Chris Velazquez. Natalie R. Verduzco. Kelee Williams HERO 12. Clifton Woods.

Wolf, Robert. Xavier, Caroline. Yambrisak, Jodi Powder Puff 10, 11, 12. Yearbook 12. Young, Jamie Newspaper 12. Zairis, Maria.

Zak, Elizabeth A. Gymnastics 9. MPAC 11. Softball 9, 10, 11, 12. Volleyball 9, 10, 11. Captain 12. Zakutansky, Joseph. Zdravetski, Olivia Chor 9. German Club 10, 11, 12. NHS 11, 12. Powder Puff 9, 10, 11, 12. Teacher Aide 12. Zestanakis, Alexandra FHA 9; HERO 12. Powder Puff 9. Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12. Teacher Aide 10. Zimnawoda, Robert J. Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12.

ACTIVITY ABBREVIATIONS

BPA - Business Professionals of America

COE - Cooperative Office Education

CPC - Commencement Planning Committee

FCA - Fellowship of Christian Athletes

FEA - Future Educators of America

FHA - Future Homemakers of America

HERO - Home Economics Related Occupations

MCATF - Multi-Cultural Awareness Task Force

MPAC - Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

NHS - National Honor Society

NJHS - National Junior Honor Society

PNIN - Pirate News Network

Q & S - Quill and Scroll

SAC - Student Advisory Council

SADD - Students Against Driving Drunk

WMHS - Broadcasting Club

La'Tonia Adams
Anthony Aguilera
Jorge Alcocer III
George Alexandris
Thomas Alexandris
Quinton Allen
Michael Anacletio
Juan Anaya Jr.



Helen Andreatos
George Anton
Alfred Arana III
Corrin Argenta
Tracy Armstrong
Michael Arroyo
Mathew Aubin
Hija Babich



Stephanie Badylak
Elisa Baez
Julie Bane
Kathleen Bartochowski
Jonathan Bassett
Eric Beale
Jennifer Beaty
Carolyn Bednash



Jeffrey Berdine
Samuel Berkman
Elena Bielawski
Tiffany Blakemore
Jason Blankinship
Alicia Blondet
Elizabeth Bobos
Ronald Bolden



LaWanda Borom
Rebecca Bosch
Aja Boyd
Terrence Boyd
Christin Brakley
Anita Briggs
Raine Brodner
Ann Marie Bronowski



Elizabeth Brown
Janis Brown
Sarah Brown
Solomon Brown
Frederick Buck
Kelly Burke
Maja Businoska
Andrew Byrom



Robert Cagle
William Campbell
Katy Cantrell
Richie Carden
Jason Carr
Heather Carter
Amber Casalin
Rose Castillo



Elaine Castro
Betty Cather
James Cermak
Michelle Chandler
Brian Chapman
Jamie Chapman
Joshua Christoff
Christin Cirrincione



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1998

Angela Clark
Kimberly Clark
Royal Clark
Matthew Clemmons
Nakia Clemmons
Ryan Cleveringa
April Connally

Amanda Cook
Jason Coriano
David Cram
Thomas Crane
Nicole Crisman
Nathan Cross
Jeff Cseke

Michael Curtis
Jody Cyphert
Kristian Darden
Michael De Courcy
Jack De Haven
Alicia De Leon
Cristina De Long

Angela De Souza
Roy De Young
Craig Demaree
Richard Demo
Lupka Despotoski
Zoran Despotoski
Benito Diaz



NAKIA CLEMMONS

'With three seconds left and down by 1, Clemmons dribbled up the court...3...2...and she shot, and scored! The crowd went wild!'

This is how you might have heard of Nakia Clemmons, '98.

With only two years of varsity basketball under her belt, Clemmons made a valuable impression for the Lady Pirates. Clemmons, who was an off-and-on starter for the Pirates as a sophomore and had set high goals for the team and herself this year.

"I would like to see the team place high in the Duneland Conference, and win sectionals." For herself, Clemmons hoped to improve her skills and earn a basketball scholarship.

After high school, she wanted to use her scholarship to major in biology. This probably explained why biology was considered her favorite class.

"I find biology interesting and would like to work with it more in the future," she replied.

On top of basketball and academics, Clemmons found time for her family and friends. It helped when her friends and families were actively involved in her basketball season. This was possible with her friends because most of her close ones played basketball with her. Her two older brothers, Kenny, 26, and Aaron, 22, supported her at the games when they could.

She also admired her parents. "They do whatever they can for me," Clemmons replied.

Clemmons found time to hold down a job at Century Mall in her spare time. She worked at Pretzel-Maker, which allowed her to have a little extra spending money. On top of this, she fit in her hobbies of rock collecting and reading. Clemmons also went out for cross-country her junior year in hope of being better conditioned for basketball season.

Clemmons hoped to keep striving for success after high school. With her continued hard work and dedication, her goals seemed to be in reach. One day this future biologist may be playing women's professional basketball and in the off season solving the problem of pollution.

■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



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Damian Dilbone
 Danny Dillard
 Diana Dipert
 Ashley Dobis
 David Dobos
 Doris Dobrich
 Naum Doneski

10

Maryth Dorado
 David Duchscher
 Jeramie Duff
 Lynn Duplaga
 Heather Egener
 Mathew Egener
 Joey Eich

11

Charles Elliott
 Terry Emmons
 Clarence English
 Kevin English
 Hector Escalante
 Grace Escamilla
 Alexandros Espoglou

1998

Andreas Espoglou
 Tiffany Essex
 Jeffery Fairbairn
 Jermell Feagin
 Melissa Floyd
 Michael Flutka
 Lauren Fralinger



JASON FRANZEN

There are those people in the world who are just enough of an oddity to make them seem outwardly normal. Jason Franzen is one of those people, a modern Eddie Haskell, the king of the unexpected. Just when you think you've got him pegged, there's something new in store.

Jason, the hip-hop thugster, or Jason the Classical connoisseur? Jason the guy any girl would be happy to take home to Mom and Dad, or Jason, the modern rebel? Stinky the gentleman or Jason the nut-ball?

Your answer: just plain Jason, nice guy extrodinaire. Call him what you will, he's still just Jason. With a passion for Quentin Tarantino and the Irish mob, the Wu-Tang Clan and Frank Sinatra. Not to mention his love for felt fedoras and Kangol "pimp hats." You just gotta love Stinky.

And what was "Stinky" supposed to mean? "Zervos calls me Stinky one day," says Jason, "and for whatever reason, it stuck." Like glue, one would say. Franzen had been commonly known as Stinky since well before his junior year, and he didn't seem to mind the pseudonym. "Everybody's got one. It could be worse, at least I'm not Dopey or Dorky or Geeky. And everybody knows I really don't smell that bad."

Franzen spent his spare time on the CakeWalk program or making runs to the S&J record store in Highland. When he wasn't slaving at Angelo's Sicilian Carte that was, where he bussed tables. "It's a pretty good job, I work with a lot of my friends and get to talk to people." A gifted cartoonist and columnist for the school paper, Jason also liked to cruise the set in his pukey gold '88 Grand Am, bass a'bumpin.

For all of those who knew Stinky, and for those who knew Jason Franzen, it was great to have him around. One never knew his next move, and it was fun to watch him just be Stinky.

■Chris Eastlee





Joshua Francis
Ryan Francis
Jason Franzen
Barbara Freeman
Margret French
Amie Frey
Dennis Frizzell
Kathryn Gaines



Danny Galic
Annie Gallagher
Lisa Garbus
Ryan Germick
Diana Gill
Geoffrey Gooch
Deanna Goodman
Jennifer Gordan



Elizabeth Grey
Joshua Gray
Rebecca Greenberg
Eric Greene
Kristina Greene
Mary Gregor
Bradley Gregory
Jacob Gross



Yvonne Guardiola
Andela Gurnsey
Aaron Guice
James Halej
Maria Halkias
Amber Hamilton
Dianna Hammer
Monique Harbin



Carrie Hargett
Jacques Harris
James Harris
Ryan Harter
Kendra Hawkins
Nicholas Hazi
Deloris Head
Leesha Hearne



Christopher Hedigan
Ginny Heitmann
Hollis Henely
Eric Herbert
Jesus Hernandez
Joyce Herrera
Larry Herzog
James Hestor

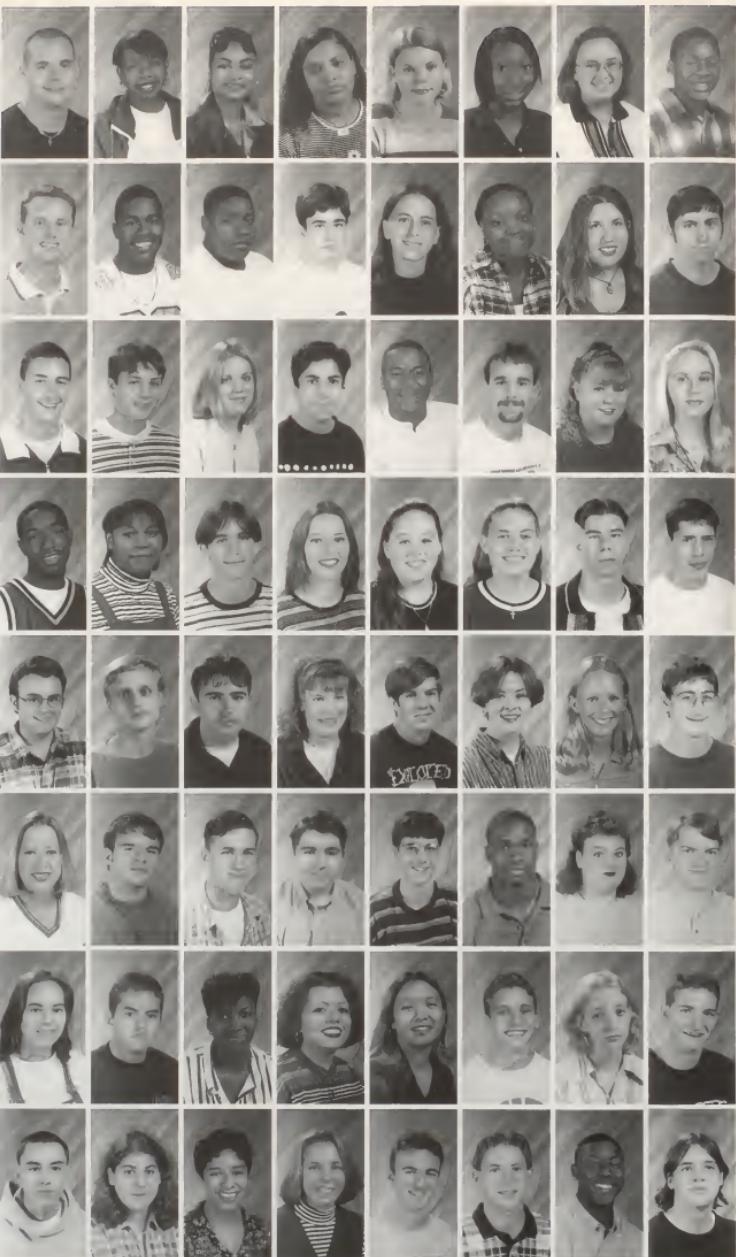


Jennifer Hill
Megan Hill
Christopher Hodges
Brandon Hoffman
Stephanie Hogan
Nicholas Holm
Laura Hoover
Danielle Houck



Shannon Houck
Jennifer Hummel
Mike Hunke
Michael Igarta
Jason Jackson
Cindy Jakubin
Anthony James
David Janda

William Janowsky
Ebonic Johnson
Erishard Johnson
Margaret Johnson
Mary Johnson
Nikita Johnson
September Johnson
Sherwin Johnson



Matthew Johnston
Radi Jones
Romell Jones
Nenad Jovanovic
Alexander Jovanovich
LaDonna Julkes
Nicole Karabatos
Michael Kardoulias

Kayvon Karimi
Steven Kavois
Deidra Keilman
Hormitz Kelaita
Brandon Kelly
Andrew Kendera
Danielle Kerns
Mashele Kienzle

Enoch Kimbrell
Nicole King
Shawn King
April Kisza
Jennifer Klajich
Amanda Koen
Joseph Konefall
Jerry Koontz

John Koshman
Arkadiusz Kosow
Bobby Kosteksi
Jennifer Kozub
Steven Krizman
Tia Krooswyk
Jennifer Kucik
Todd Kuntz

Jennifer Lackvitch
Jason LaCny
Joshua Lain
Michael Laslow
Peter Laspas
Duray Lawrence
Amber Lenker
Aaron Longacre

Katreene Lopez
Stevie Lopez
Moina Lucious
Melissa Luna
Lisa Luyon
Sean Lyons
Allison Mackey
Terrie Maddox

Anthony Madrian
Irene Makarounas
Elena Malave
Leslie Malerich
Alex Malinovich
Joe Mallory
Rozell Manning
Matt Manoski

9

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11

12

1998

Sonia Mares
Milena Marie
Cvetozar Maricесki
Peter Marsenic
Amber Martin
Lindsey Martin
Abigail Matlock

Jill Matusik
Mark Mayersky
David Mc Carty
Jennifer Mc Carty
Sean Mc Carty
Jeremy Mc Clain
Bonnie Mc Farland

Brenda Mc Keethen
Marika Mc Kinstrey
Brian Mc Lindon
Damion Mc Queen
Kelly Mc Shane
Yashima Mead
Jason Mearna

Jessica Mechling
Francisco Medellin
Sergio Medellin
Angela Melnik
David Merrit
James Mezo
Misty Miazga



VALERIE PRATSCHER

When you're looking for Valerie Pratscher, '98, you usually don't have to look far. Why? Because you could usually hear her coming.

"I think of myself as a pretty "loud" person. And that's what everyone thinks too."

Pratscher loved using her outgoing personality to make her friends laugh and embarrass them. Although she's usually the one doing the embarrassing, after a recent incident at basketball where she was 'the butt of the joke,' she had plenty embarrassing to do.

"I promised Kris Burke and Amanda Valse that I will get them back sooner or later, when they are least expecting it."

Pratscher had plenty of time to embarrass, but it had to be done at practice or a game. This is because this three-sport athlete was always on the go. Throughout high school, she'd participated on volleyball, basketball, track and cross-country, with basketball being her favorite.

"I think it takes a lot of skill to play basketball. It's the hardest sport for sure. It's very challenging, and competitive."

Pratscher's AAU experience helped establish herself as one of the key players for MHS in the 96-97 season. One of her AAU experiences last summer included playing in the Junior's National Tournament where she had the opportunity to be seen by college coaches, tying into her adventual goal of playing basketball in college.

Aside from basketball, Pratscher had made a valuable impact on the MHS track team in shot put and discus. As a sophomore, Pratscher was recognized as one of the area's top shot put throwers. Another season's highlight was winning the elite Lew Wallace Invitational. Her future goals in track included winning state and breaking the school record.

Pratscher also made a transition in the fall of 96. Pratscher, a volleyball player at MHS for two years, decided to give cross-country a try. This change was brought about by the lack of playing time on the court and the fact that she likes to experience new things. ■ **Stephanie Nicolini**



9

Steven Milak
Chris Miles
DeMonte Millard
Courtney Miller
Tonjameka Miller
Amanda Minnich
Greg Mish

**10**

Maryanne Mitrevski
Lisa Modglin
Jennifer Modisette
Jamie Modrak
Wetta Montelongo
Melissa Montemeyer
Peter Montelone

**11**

David Morgan
Teneisha Morris
April Mouton
Erin Mulloy
Johnny Muniz
Michael Mytyk
Adam Naujokas

**1998**

Petko Naumoski
Elizabeth Navarro
Kristina Navarro
Angela Nave
Jeffery Nelson
Kostas Nikitaras
Pamela Niksch



KHALIL SANTOS

The alarm clock goes off...BEEP! BEEP! It's 4:55, it's time for Ali Santos, '98, to start the new day.

"Most people don't realize how difficult it is to swim and dive, I'm here at 5:20 in the morning to practice with the swimmers, and then I practice after school with the rest of the divers. Sometimes I stay after the regular practice to work on my swimming."

He is one of the top divers in the area, and has earned many distinctions including Portage Diving Invitational Champion, and fourth place at conference. Santos has also come within five points of breaking the team record for six dives in a meet. He was also voted diving captain when he was only a sophomore.

Not only was he actively involved in Swimming and Diving, but he also found time for Cheerleading, Quest Club, Student Government, and Natural Helpers. Yet he managed to get good grades and hold a part time job at Gloria Jeans in the mall.

"I like having so many activities, because it keeps me busy, and gives me a sense of responsibility."

Santos wasn't someone who took responsibility lightly, and it showed in his attitude and in his activities.

He had an outlook on life that was different from many of his peers. After being involved in a serious car accident last year, his attitude completely changed.

"I'm a lot less pessimistic now. I live each day to its fullest, I try to enjoy life. I see people who don't seem to care about what goes on in their lives. What they don't realize is life is something that can be taken from you in a matter of seconds."

Ali plans on graduating from Merrillville, and going to Valparaiso University. He wants to pursue a career in oceanography.

■ Stacey Brown





Kate O'Sullivan
Jonathan Oaks
Snezana Obetkovski
Jessica Ollech
Anthony Ortiz
Maria Ortiz
Laurie Owen
Tina Owen



Quiana Pace
Kathryn Padberg
Marco Pagen
Sarah Pagel
Karyn Pahl
Joshua Paniguanas
Adam Parduhn
Deesha Parker



Brett Parlock
Betsy Parrish
Ted Partas
Kelly Patterson
Mathew Pavlovich
Jason Pearman
Santos Petras
Jeff Peek



Lashounda Peete
Diana Pena
Angela Pena
Bryn Pendley
Jami Penilla
Gretchen Peters
Bridgeget Petrites
Hrisovalant Petalsis



Jordan Pierson
Christopher Polak
Michael Polak
Bradley Polzoes
Trisha Potts
Wesley Potts
Tina Powers
Valerie Pratscher



Tony Pratt
Daniela Prentoski
Kelly Preuss
Erin Price
Torria Prince
Nicole Quainter
Michelle Quirk
Lisa Quiroga



John Quiroz
Kamran Qureshi
Amanda Radigan
Meissa Rainbolt
David Rainey
Nicole Rakich
Adrian Ramirez
Jamall Rashad



Jameel Rashad
Mary Rassbach
Jessica Reed
Douglas Reeves
Heather Regan
Kristin Rendina
Lisa Renehan
Renee Reyes

John Richards
Jeremy Rick
Patricia Riley
Nikola Ristesvki
Danielle Rivera
Nestor Rivera
Raphael Rivera
Jennifer Roames

Kristin Roberts
Clinique Robinson
Ronald Robinson
Jeremim Rodriguez
Eduardo Roman
Bret Romeo
Johnny Rooda
Jennifer Rose

Daniel Rosenbaum
Erin Roth
Timothy Roytan
Kimberly Ruell
Kimberly Rumph
Curtis Rund
Melissa Sabo
Rosa Salazar

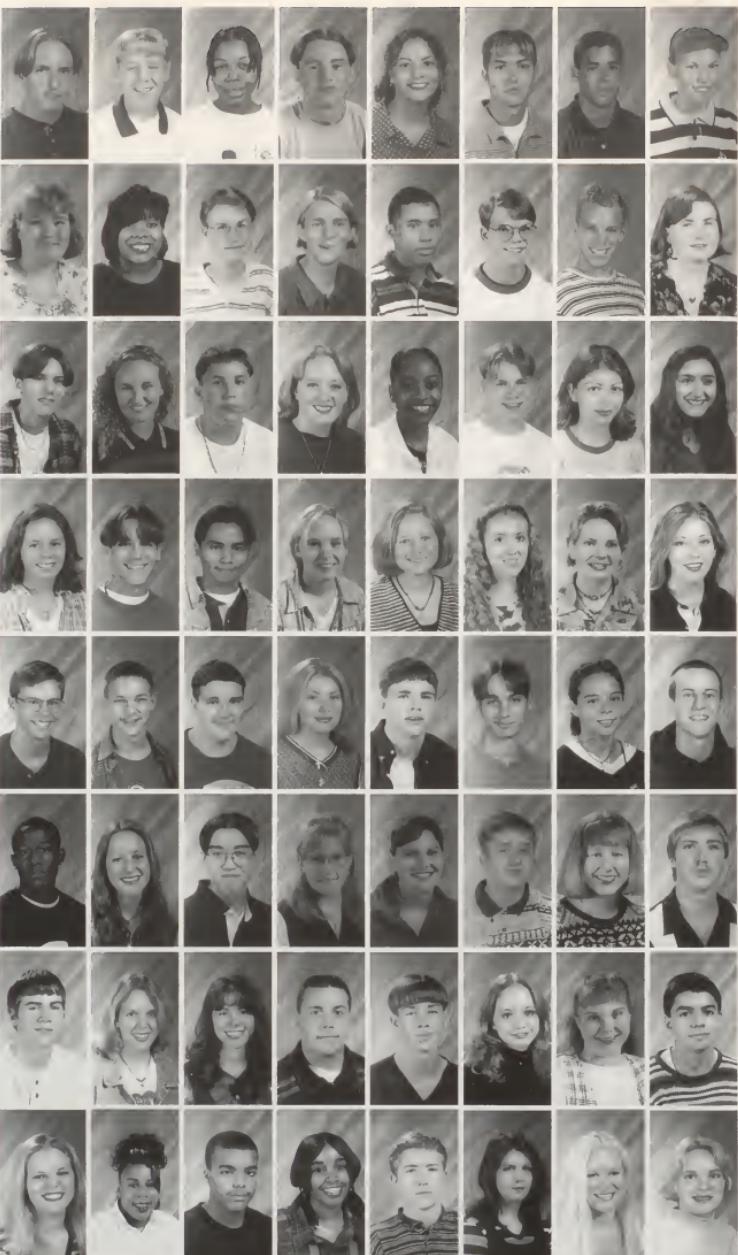
Jennifer Sanders
Jacob Santeramo
Khalil Santos
Arleen Sattler
Beth Scheffer
Sarah Schmuck
Jenée Schramm
Ann Marie Schubert

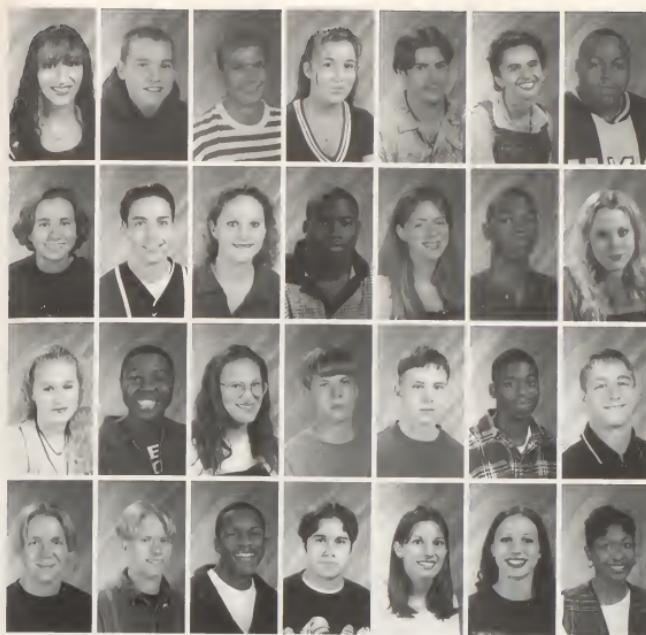
Christopher Schuck
Timothy Seibal
Matt Sell
Deanna Semovski
Andrew Seydel
Adam Schaffer
Jennifer Shawer
John Shelhart

Anthony Shelton
Rachel Sheridan
Andrew Shih
Alicia Shingler
Jennifer Shoback
Clint Shoemaker
De Anna Shonk
Jacob Sills

Roger Sills
Jamie Simpson
Michelle Simpson
Brian Sims
Michael Simunjak
Susan Sinkiewicz
Danielle Sisler
Gabriel Skoufezis

Nicole Skura
Brandis Smith
Brian Smith
Dara Smith
Jeffery Smith
Hilary Snover
Cheryl Snyder
Cassandra Solomon





Melissa Sonaty
Anthony Sorci
Danny Spaliars
Maria Spanos
Matt Sparacino
Menka Spaseka
Daniel Spencer

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Stephanie Sperka
Michael Stanivuk
Alexia Stath
Aaron Steele
Kristin Stefankiewicz
Antionette Stewart
Christy Stewart

Lorie Stock
Phil Strong
Sherrie Stupic
Donald Summar
Alan Svitko
Adonis Swift
Jason Tabor

Johnathon Talbot
Andy Tanis
Brock Taylor
Jacob Tellado
Ailiki Theodorou
Marisa Thomas
Qiana Thornton

1998

BRIAN SIMS

If you see a 1973 Pontiac Firebird with a skull in the back window peeling out of the MHS parking lot, watch out. It's Brian Sims, '98, and he's gonna' run you down.

Sims was involved in many activities outside of school. Not only did he enjoy fishing at Turkey Creek and bowling, he worked as a maintenance supervisor at Deep River Water Park. He enjoyed his job, and the learning that went along with it.

"It's interesting and challenging to work with state of the art technology."

While cleaning wave pools and water slides may sound exciting, Sims had an even greater interest in Carpentry. He has taken many classes in woods, and was enrolled in Building Trades.

He credited his interests to the head of the Industrial Arts Department, Jim Dailey.

"He saw my potential and inspired me to want to pursue a career in the industrial arts field," he said of his favorite teacher.

Sims planned on attending Purdue University and following in the footsteps of his grandfather, whom he admired. Sims said that his grandfather taught him an honest days work and "good, strong family values." He also taught him to take care of his belongings, which would do him good in the future.

Sims had many prized possessions, but the thing that was most important to him was his 1938 Goldsmith baseball glove. Not only was it an antique, it was signed by ex-Chicago Cub great Ernie Banks. Being a die hard Cubs fan, meeting the legend was one of the most memorable experiences of his life.

"When I gave Ernie my glove so he could sign it, he hesitated to give it back to me. He asked me how much I'd be willing to sell it for, and I just told him 'not after you signed it!'"

With all of these interests and a promising future ahead of him, Sims can certainly count on his life being a series of grand slams!

■ **Krissy Malast**



9

Elizabeth Todoraska
 David Tokarski
 Mark Torres
 Miguel Tovar
 Igor Trpkoski
 Allison Tuft
 Abigail Tyler

10

Dawn Tyler
 Jamie Ulbrich
 Scott Underwood
 Adam Vadas
 Michelle Vasileski
 Dimitrios Vassiliou
 Ryan Vawter

11

Samuel Vazanellis
 Kymberly Veal
 Marcella Velez
 Steven Vettese
 Natasha Via
 Robert Vinson
 Paul Virgo

1998

Ryan Vlasic
 Julia Vukin
 Christina Vuletic
 Nicholas Vurva
 Brian Wacnik
 Christy Walsh
 Matt Warus



HELEN ANDREATOS

Known as "Eleni," her Greek name, to her friends, Helen Andreatos had a wide circle of friends. She did not run around with any one specific group of people. She added, "My closest friends know who they are." Nevertheless, she said her best friend was her mother. She explained, "She's someone I admire and trust with everything even though we have our bad days."

For fun Andreatos enjoyed going shopping, dancing, meeting guys and hanging out with her friends. Andreatos was the type of person who had a good time being around people; however, she stressed that she found people fake who "think money means everything, and makes who they are."

Andreatos was a photographer for both the *Mirror* and the *Merrillvue*, but she also wrote stories for both publications as well. She also contributed to the business side of the newspaper and the yearbook by selling ads to the business community.

Her Greek heritage was an important part of who Andreatos was. Besides being active in publications, Andreatos was a member of the Maids of Athena, a Greek club. The purpose of the club was to bring together Greek and American culture, having conventions, meeting people from other states, and having dances.

Although her major was still undecided, Andreatos planned to attend Purdue University at Lafayette.

She admitted that she had a strong head. Andreatos liked to make decisions for herself; she was not strongly influenced by her peers. Inspite of this she said she was easy to get along with. She added that "a lot of people take me seriously because I always have a serious facial expression." She added that she wasn't serious all the time. She likes to joke and have fun. "You just have to get to know me."





Holly Wellesstat
Michelle Westerfield
Timothy Wheeler
Courtney Whiteside
Carl Whitworth
Deana Williams
Latasha Williams
Keri Willison



Jennifer Wilson
Keith Wilson
Jill Wilusz
Annmarie Wojtowicz
Carolyn Woodfaulk
Jason Woolwine
Yvonne Woszcynski
Lori Wotell



Marysa Wright
Nicholas Wright
Eric Xidis
Cassandra Zawacki
Amanda Zorich
Giovanni Zunno



IS IT OUR TURN?

Velveteens Diana Dipert and Angela Melnik wait patiently for the choir concert to begin.



IT'S NAP TIME

Carolyn Bednash feels the need to take a little a little siesta in the library.



KILLING TIME ■ Katy Cantrell and her friend wait for play practice to start down by the auditorium.

Jenny Adams
Kyle Adams
Brandon Adamson
Cory Adler
Eric Aguirre
Lucius Allen
Adam Ama
Benjamin Ameling



Julian Anaya
Marienko Anderson
Adam Antkiewicz
Julia Arambula
Anna Arroyo
Oscar Artega
Curtis Arviso
Jennifer Ashe



Priscilla Assibey-Mensah
Janet Atakorah
Justin Atwood
Anthony Azcona
Ryan Bailey
Tony Bakraktaris
Christopher Baldwin
Shalie Balenger



Jared Bane
Dominic Banham
Gina Bartolomeo
Daniel Bautista
Regina Belimon
Emmeline Benavides
Elizabeth Berry
Kristina Berta



Victoria Bish
Ashley Bittner
Sandra Blanco
Evita Blondet
Tabitha Bolden
Vanessa Bond
Virginia Bonilla
Lisa Bowen



Timothy Branham
Lori Bratcher
Suzanne Brazlovitz
Dustin Breedan
Blanca Brenes
Jason Brewer
Michael Brewer
Stacey Brooks



Erica Brown
Shelai Bryant
Jason Bunnell
Jaclyn Burns
Crystal Butler
Shannon Cagle
Terri Camery
Nicolas Camisa



Dion Campbell
Nova Carden
Tiffany Carli
Jolene Carlson
Jackie Cermak
Christopher Charleston
Tonisha Cherry
Nadiyah Chisom



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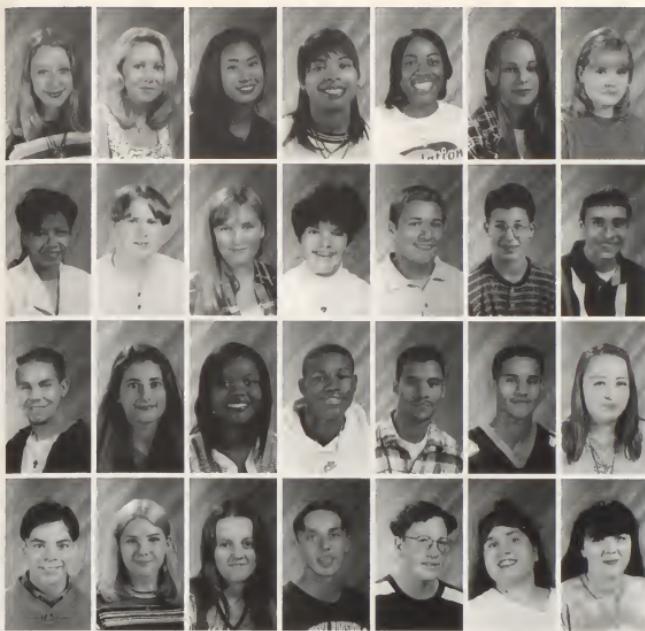
1999

Debbie Choate
Ryanne Christiansen
Jenny Chung
Porscha Cobb
Syreeta Cobb
Cristina Cole
Robin Conner

Candice Cook
Martin Costello
Patricia Coyne
Callie Croyle
Jason Culp
Daniel Curtis
Steve Cvetkoski

Brian Damion
Sandy Damjanoski
Erica Davis
John Davis
David De Leon
Rolando Decos
Violeta Del Real

Ronald Dergo
Jacqueline Dienes
Elana Dimoska
Vasil Dimovski
Jon-Tomas Donahue
Mary Dordieski
Daniella Dore



GINA BARTOLOMEO

Going to football and basketball games was something many students here at MHS did every weekend, but not everyone got the pleasure of dancing before, during, and after the game.

Unless of course you were a pom.

While she had to dedicate most of her spare time to prepare for games and competitions, Gina Bartolomeo said it was worth it.

"Competitions are my favorite part. I love that feeling of pressure and the feeling of finally winning. You realize that all of the hard practice has finally paid off."

But Bartolomeo did have a life outside of poms. When she didn't have practice, she enjoyed many other activities after school. Hanging out with her friends and going to soccer games were just a few of the things she enjoyed. She was also involved in FEA, Spanish Club and the Newspaper Staff.

After graduation, Bartolomeo planned on attending either Ball State University or IU and studying speech therapy.

Her most memorable moment occurred her freshman year in Dallas, Texas.

"This guy who always wore Calvin Klein followed us everywhere. He was at Plant Hollywood, and Hard Rock Cafe, and even our hotel. He was everywhere!"

Bartolomeo said that she was extremely close to her family, and that she had always admired her big brother Tony.

"I really don't have a specific reason why, but I always have since I was little, and I always will."

She has many fond memories of her childhood with her brother, but her favorite is when they crashed into a pole at Spot-Not Car Wash.

With a positive influence and strong family support, Bartolomeo can plan on a promising future. ■ **Krissy Malast**



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Oliver Dorsuleski
 Robert Dowdy
 Andrew Draper
 Brandy Dravet
 Debra Drobac
 Christa Dziewicki
 Josh Eatlee

10

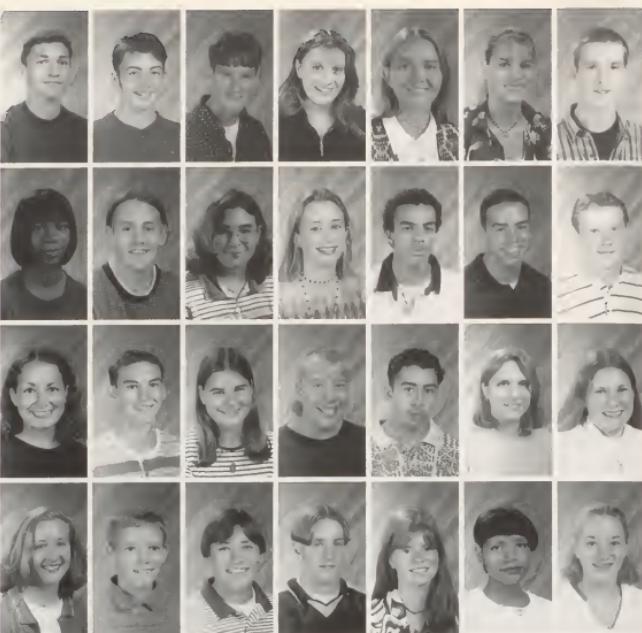
Evita Echols
 Matthew Edwards
 Nouha El-Omar
 Cheryl Emmett
 Otoniel Espinoza
 David Everett JR
 Nicholas Farabaugh

11

Lisa Farver
 Ryan Fasel
 Lisa Fesko
 Sarah Fischer
 Joaquin Flores
 Misty Ford
 Heather Foster

12

Marygrace Foster
 Patrick Foster
 Russell Francis
 Joshua Frank
 Kari Fravel
 Atlantis Frost
 Carrie Gabrys

**1999**

MATTHEW EDWARDS

What was there to do for fun? Matt Edwards said "I come back to the school and rollerblade everywhere, jump stuff and just have fun!"

This down to earth sophomore enjoyed rollerblading with his friends or just hanging out in his room. While in his room he rocked to Pearl Jam drew and painted on his walls. When it was time to catch some zzz's he dreamed of meeting the drummer from Def Leopard.

As president of the Key Club, Matt Edwards, '99, was extremely active in planning all of their activities, including several dances they held over the summer. The dances helped finance the club throughout the year. They also planned to visit the Ronald McDonald House at Loyola University, and every year they take one summer trip. The club went to Indianapolis to eat dinner and dance, they took part in a lock-in, and ran around at Great America, too.

The Key Club was always known for all the trips they took. Even the president of the club said, "I joined to go to Great America, but as I got involved. I felt good about all the charity work we were doing."

One favorite trip of Edwards' was the trip to Miami last summer. "My trip to Miami was excellent. We went parasailing, met 3,000 teenagers from all over the world and went to see Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville."

Edwards said the more he became involved, the more fun it was to be apart of the Key Club. He wanted to send a message to all students that being involved in school makes it all worth while.

The people Edwards mostly looked up to were his friends. Edwards' friends in Key Club had a good laugh at Edwards once. He fell and ripped his jeans standing alone in the parking lot.

Always putting his best foot forward, Edwards looks ahead to graduating and attending college. ■**Jodi Yambrisak**





David Galovic Jr.
Tera Galovic
Marissa Galvan
Joey Gargano
Valerie Garza
Eric Gentry
Michelle Gentry
Katrina George



Lisa Giboyeaux
Douglas Gilliam
James Gilliam
Jolynese Glass
Shaise Glass
Michael Glorioso
Dana Gombus
Elena Gonzalez



Michael Gonzalez
Priscilla Gonzalez
Matthew Gordon
Tiffany Greene
Kristina Gros
Jennifer Grubb
Michael Gubitz
Christina Guerrero



Kimberly Gut
Thomas Gutesha
Larry Gutierrez
Nathaniel Hall
Angelica Harrison
Kurtis Hayes
Thomas Hazlett
Jennifer Heine



Binika Henderson
Simone Henderson
Kelly Herrera
Thomas Hilliker
Linda Hinojosa
John Holden
Daniel Holmes
Edgar Holmes



Carrie Hoover
Michael Horton
Lateena Hubbard
David Huber
Aaron Hunt
John Hunt
Christopher Irwin
Joseph Jakowski



William Jackomis
Amanda Jacobs
Nancy Jakubin
Michael Janeckzo
Tyanna Januszewski
Latoya Jefferson
Alfred Johnson
Ayngela Johnson



Robyn Johnson
Shernika Johnson
Ursula Johnson
Justin Jones
Lynne Jones
Miranda Jones
Sarah Jones
Yolanda Jones

Joseph Juarez
Michael Kalogeris
Michelle Kaminsky
Valentina Karamacoska
Heather Karczewski
Johnny Karson
Nikki Kazonis
Milissa Kelsey



Jodie Kendera
James Keown
Melissa Kerns
Karen Kerr
Brian Kessler
Michael Kienzynski
Gary King
Michael Kisza



Tracy Kleminski
Joseph Klippel
Ognjen Klajic
Juliana Klajich
Robert Kmetz
Brian Kolodziej
Kristy Komar
Erica Koppers



Danny Koroskozi
Craig Koves
Chris Krcoski
Marina Kritikos
Jonathan Kwiatkoski
Courtney Lamprecht
Adam Langham
Amy Lay



Aimee Lee
Dana Levitt
Richard Lile
Tara Linde
Erin Lindsay
Melissa Little
Rosanne Lloyd
Candi Long



Paula Lopes
Jacquelyn Lopez
Sandra Lopez
Amanda Lucas
Elizabeth Lucas
Melissa Lucassen
Mandy Lucious
Laura Luevano

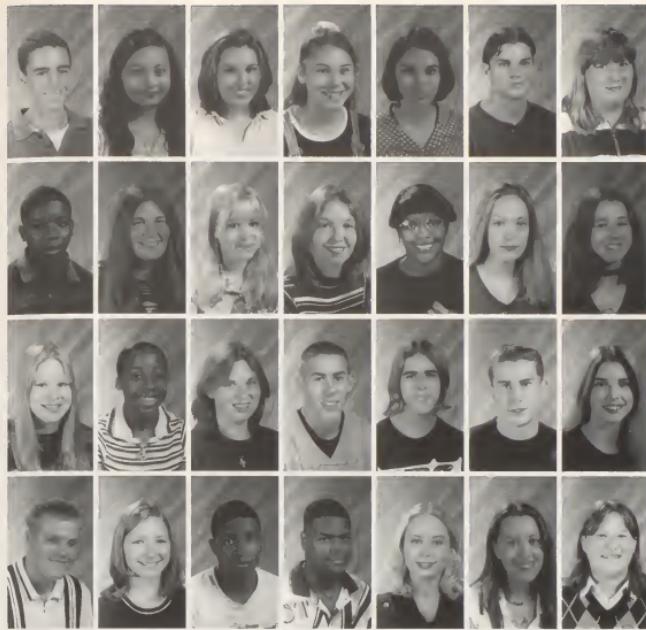


Tina Luna
Kimberly Lux
Neil Lux
Jennifer Lyles
Ronald Lyles
Ronell Lyles
Sonya Mabon
Leslie Mackowiak



Matthew Magurany
Sarah Magurany
Kari Jo Majkowski
Afrrodite Makarounas
Monica Malocha
Katrina Mandich
Kevin Manning
Jason Marcus





Ryan Marovich
Correen Martinez
Linda Martinez
Nicole Martinez
Sara Martinez
Thomas Mauman
Shannon McCann

9

Delwin McCloud Jr.
Mandy McConnell
Jaclyn McCond
Brandy McCoy
Chanelle McDaniel
Christina McDaniel
Erin McDermott

10

Casey McKenney
Ginnie McKnight
Kathleen McMullin
Michael Megyesi
Michael Mersot
Kevin Meyer
Dana Miller

11

Steven Minchuk
Nicole Minskey
Michael Mitchell
Wesley Mitchell
Angela Moes
Jennifer Mola
Amanda Moloney

12

1999

PORSCHA COBB

Porscha Cobb '99 had been in choir for so long that she couldn't seem to quit doing it. She said, "I've been singing since the fifth grade and it has stuck with me."

In the high school choir she got to go on trips to Houston and Disney World and sing better music. She likes to be in the concerts because they learned new dances and songs.

She was also in track and field. Her activity was sprinting the 100 meter dash. She liked being in track because it was fun, and it helped her get into shape.

Her goals were to graduate from high school. Cobb planned to go to either Arizona State or Grambling University. She wanted to go to college in Arizona because the weather was warmer, and she had family there.

Cobb planned to get an elementary teaching degree. The grades she hoped to teach were between kindergarten and the third grade.

She wanted to become a teacher because she wanted to help kids by giving them knowledge to become something when they are older. The teacher who convinced her that she wanted to become a teacher was Karen Hrabota, her seventh grade math teacher from Harrison. "She pushed me to make good grades in her math class," Cobb commented. For now she helps her siblings and her friends with their school work.

If she does not become a teacher, Cobb would like to become a broadcaster. In the future she wanted to be an anchor for channel 5. She intended to join PNN and study photography to help herself become a broadcaster.

Cobb wished that she would have taken different classes her first two years. She would have taken broadcast journalism to become a broadcaster, but she took classes that she felt would help her with teaching, basically any class that taught anything.

■ Megan Shelton



9

Jessica Montemayor
 Danielle Moore
 Christopher Morawska
 Jason Morton
 Alicia Moss
 Nicole Murray
 Dragan Muvceski

10

Tina Naumoski
 Paul Navarro
 Ramona Navarro
 Nicole Nelson
 Nicole M. Nelson
 April Nichols
 Natasha Nixon

11

Mark O'Brien
 Heather Oaks
 Adam Ohlenkamp
 Jonathan Ollech
 David Orgon
 Anne Orzecowicz
 Steve Packovski

1999

Nadine Padilla
 Samantha Palmateer
 Stephanie Palmateer
 Steve Passaloukos
 Alonzo Paul
 Angela Pavlish
 Calvin Peacock



JENNIFER MOLA

Many people come and go unnoticed at Merrillville High School, but if there was one person everyone should know, it was Jennifer Mola, '99.

She was involved in choir and pom-poms. She enjoyed performing in front of an audience and had been doing so since she was in the sixth grade.

Poms was her first priority. She was a pom in seventh grade, a cheerleader in eighth and ninth grades, and went back to poms when she was a sophomore.

"I like the new people you meet, and all the fun times we have at camp, games, and traveling to competitions."

But poms was not her only activity. She was also actively involved in Velveteens. Her favorite thing about choir was planning and getting ready for concerts. She felt it helped her to become a better performer in front of a crowd without getting nervous.

In her spare time, she liked to go out with her friends. They played an important part in her life. She felt that her close friends played an important part in her life because they were always there for her when she needed them. They could usually be found hanging out at the movies, Stardust, or at parties. Another one of Jennifer's favorite activities was shopping for socks.

She planned to continue poms for the remaining two years of high school. She would like to attend college in a southern state like Florida or Tennessee because she felt that they took Poms more seriously in that region. She hadn't decided on a career yet, but thought she wanted to be a lawyer or child psychiatrist. She also wanted to try out to be a Luv-A-Bull dancer for the Chicago Bulls. In the long run, she would like to live somewhere hot and sunny, have a few kids, and be rich and happy!

Stacey Brown





Steven Pearson
Terra Pearson
Jennifer Pedroza
Kinyatta Perkins
Clarence Perry
Scott Peters
Kirk Petyo
Casey Phelan



Hollie Phelps
Eric Pinnell
Sarah Plukas
Anna Ponce
Melissa Powers
Derek Previs
Dierre Price
Gregory Price



Jennifer Purevich
Leon Quainter
Christopher Rainbolt
Jill Ramos
Riannon Ramos
Jessica Randolph
Jameela Rashad
Ian Rausei



Edward Reed
Jodi Reeves
Brandi Reid
Emily Reilly
Jeff Remenius
Michael Reyna
Tracy Richmond
Wally Riddle



Goci Ristevski
Deanne Rivera
Michael Robertson
David Rodriguez
Raymond Rogalski
Jeffery Rosenwinkel
Whitney Ross
Bradley Roy



Jennifer Roytan
April Ruiz
Nicole Ruiz
Jon Rybicki
Amanda Rysiewicz
Angela Sajdera
Rebecca Saliek
Marixa Samuels



Cesar Sanchez
Daniel Sanchez
Jason Sanchez
Joel Sanchez
Nicole Sanchez
Jacob Santos
Matthew Seegel
Kira Scheub



Danny Schieber
Jason Shoot
Michelle Schreiner
Carletta Scott
Ryan Scott
Michael Sell
Taria Selmon
Jacquia Seltz

Micole Shelby
Megan Shelton
Elizabeth Scherwood
Tina Shukitis
Shanna Sigman
Jason Sims
Nicholas Skalba
Angela Smith



Christopher Smith
Glenn Smith
Jacob Smith III
Charles Smoljan
Catherine Snelson
Heidi Snow
Michael Sopko
Amanda Sovich



Adam Sparacino
Antwayn Spencer
Jorie Spinks
Melissa Squyres
Melissa St. Clair
Sureleen Stage
Jennifer Stallkamp
Aaron Standifer



Sara Staniszewski
Demetra Stath
Tameka Stegall
Stephen Steinerger
Keith Stephens
Joseph Stevens
Eric Stewart
Veronica Stiles



Derek Stomper
Jennifer Street
Kevin Strebler
Sara Stupic
Paul Suleski
Troy Sutton
Nina Suvajac
Kyle Swims



Racheal Szany
Mary Tagg
Dame Tanaskoski
Darrell Taylor
Katie Taylor
Mark Taylor
Danielle Thames
Elizabeth Thien



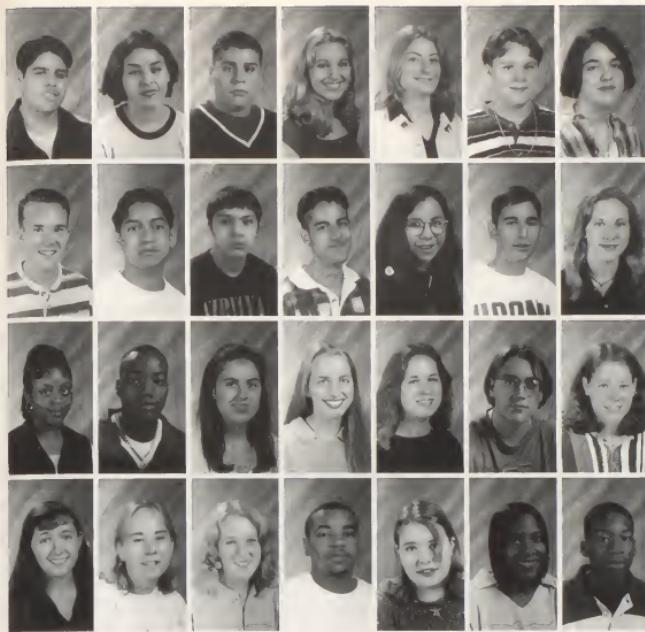
Preston Thomas
Joseph Thompson
Cheyanne Thornley
Melissa Tillman
Chavonny Tillotson
Maria Toledo
Michael Tomondi
Joseph Torres



Christina Towry
Kimberly Traficanti
John Trama
Jeremy Trimble
Stacey Trock
Moses Tucker
Teviss Turner
Patricia Underwood



9



Carlos Uribe
Jasmine Uribe
Fernando Vaca
Marissa Van Volkenburgh
Christina Vargo
Jeremy Vasaitis
Elena Vasilakis

10

Michael Vaughan
Bruce Vazquez
Jeremy Vega
Israel Velez
Carisa Venegas
Nicholas Vlahos
Angela Wahlman

11

Joshana Walker
Kareem Ward
Allison Watts
Jennifer Webster
Jessica Welch
Brian Wellesstat
Shannon Wells

12

Gina Welsh
Jeanette West
Kami West
Terrance Wheeler
Crystal White
Jacquese White
Keith White

1999

CORTNEY LAMPRECHT

"Friends - you can't live without them!"

That was a motto that Cortney Lamprecht, '99, lived by. In fact, family and friends was something very important to her.

She admired her father for "his hard work and dedication to his family."

She even credited her brother as being her best friend.

"Derek and I have a very close relationship. We don't have to do anything special to have fun. We can just sit around and talk for hours."

Lamprecht was an avid band member, participating in Marching Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and brass choir.

"Band was a great experience because everyone was a family. We all got along so well, I've made the greatest friends!"

A lover of nature, Lamprecht enjoyed working with plants, mowing the lawn, and hiking. She had dreams of getting into environmental studies in Yellowstone National Park after high school.

Setting her apart from everyone else, she constantly doodled images of the sun, moon, and stars to express herself.

"I think that weather is symbolic of so many things," said Lamprecht. "It is such a great form of expression."

Expression was something that came naturally to Lamprecht. She wrote poetry, and one of her poems was even published it in a book as part of a contest.

In addition to poetry, Lamprecht also liked to write short stories, and collected inspirational quotes.

"Whenever I feel down, I just look at the quotes and feel better," she concluded.

■ **Krissy Malast**



9**10****11****12****1999**

Damien Whiteside
 Matthew Wiberg
 Lawanda Wiggins
 William Wilborn
 Delrick Williams
 Leniah Williams
 Winston Williamson

Kristian Willis
 Eugene Wilson II
 Kellee Wilson
 Melissa Wilson
 Justine Wojcik
 Robert Wojcik
 Thomas Woodke

Jessica Wright
 Nick Yack
 Michael Zaborski
 James Zipinski
 Nada Zezelj
 Kasandra Zweig



MICHAEL MEGYESI

If you are on the varsity football team playing against Merrillville, and Merrillville is kicking, WATCH OUT!!

"Mike Megyesi, '99, is one awesome kicker," said Deanna Goodman, '98.

Otherwise known as "Medge," Mike is really into football. Although he was only a freshman when he started varsity football, he earned the confidence and respect of not only the coaches, but the entire team.

He kicked in the Homecoming games in '95 and '96. He also tied the school kicking record as a sophomore. It wasn't always easy for Megyesi though. During his freshmen year, and his first year kicking, he was only the second kicker. He felt that he needed to instill some confidence into the coaches.

"Head down, eye on the ball and follow through." That's what Megyesi said right before he kicked the ball. Another thing that prepared him for the game was praying and the pep talks from the coaches. He relied on his friends for support and understanding. If he kicked, and it was good, it raised his confidence. On the other hand if he missed, he thought of all the possibilities for why he had missed.

Oddly enough, he preferred basketball over football. This, of course, didn't mean that he didn't like football. Megyesi tried very hard to do his best in everything, especially school and sports. He said that he might want to coach football for MHS at some time in the future.

Most of the students around his age were attempting to get jobs, but he didn't want to work right now. He thought that it allowed him more time to practice and workout.

Basically, after he got out of school he went to football practice. Then from there he went home, did his homework, and worked out until he decided to go to bed.

■ Jason Blankinship



SERENADE

Candidates for the freshman Homecoming Court member pose for pictures with their escorts.

**ALMOST TIME**

Members of Image wait for their cue at the annual Christmas Concert.

**WINTER DANCE**

Students entering Turnabout look around to see if their friends have arrived yet.

Jennifer Abrego
Justin Adams
Tracy Albee
Kathy Alexandris
Nicole Allen
Danita Anderson
Jacob Argenta
Chinedy Aririeri

Kelly Arroyo
Angela Austin
Fremel Bakus
Jamie Bainbridge
April Balish
Timothy Ball
Morris Bankston
Edward Barksdale

Armond Baskin
Carly Berdine
Blythe Bertolo
Faith Biggs
Donald Bish
Pavel Blagojevski
Ricky Bobos
Ryan Bobowsky

Jacinta Boger
Kelly Bowen
Dana Bozeman
Joshua Bradley
Mary Brake
Philip Brasovan
Marco Bravo
Jennifer Bronowski

Anthony Brown
Joe Brown
Jonathan Brown
Nicole Brown
Scott Brownewell
Renee Bryant
Kelly Buckner
Frank Buda

Jennifer Burch
Cory Burkus
Julie Burns
Mark Burruss Jr.
Ashley Cak
David Cameron
Jacob Camp
Nicole Camp

Aaron Campbell
Adam Carlisle
Amber Carpenter
Thomas Carter
Thomas Casteel
Kathy Castel
Sergio Castillo
Clairann Caton

Tanja Celeski
Chris Chamberlain
Quaddell Cherry
Robin Childress
Adam Christopher
Demetrius Clark
Fawn Clark
Michael Cobb



9

10

11

12

2000

Jason Collins
Lamarr Comer
Christopher Conn
William Connally
Rachel Cook
Zachary Cook
Steven Cooper

Mladen Copic
Nicholas Corea
Aaron Craft
Kristen Cribari
Keith Crittenden Jr.
Joey Crosby
Brian Cross

Amanda Cruz
Dana Cudjoe
Jeanette Cullers
Shannan Cunningham
Denise Damion
Lakeida Daniels
Lawrence Davis

Renard Davis
Jolan Dawson
Adam Deel
Ricardo Del Real
Lanneah Delich
Amy Dergo
India Diggins



ADAM FEDAK

Adam Fedak had some pretty hefty expectations to live up to.

Standards were set by his older brothers Brett, '95, and Neal, '97. Since he was the last to be born, he was expected to follow in their footsteps.

Brett and Neal got "good grades" and were "good in sports." These behaviors were supposed to be copied by Adam.

For instance, his oldest brother got a scholarship to play basketball for a university. Adam felt pressure to follow in his brothers footsteps. There were however, a couple of obstacles that stood in his way.

He was an independent person; he just wanted to be himself. He was not all that great in sports and well, school work did not come too natural to him. All of these elements gave Adam some things think about.

Was he suppose to fulfill his parents expectations? It would have made them happy, but what about Adam? He would not be happy. He was not able to be himself unless he chose the alternative.

That alternative would involve Adam being himself, trying to make his dreams come true and have fun doing it. Maybe it was better to be yourself, perhaps it was something you have to do in order to be happy.

Adam always looked up to his older brothers, but being exactly like them just wasn't his style.

However, he did earn a spot on the boy's freshman basketball team.

Unfortunately for him, but fortunately for the school he had to keep up the school's tradition of honoring the Fedaks. Brett was, of course, the M.V.P. when he played. Neal received the Best Mental Attitude Award for his achievements during his senior year.

All in all, he has to have a strong four years on the basketball team to live up to these expectations. ■ Nicole Blondell and Chris Sikich



9

Sasho Dimovski
 John Dittoe
 Sasho Dojcinoski
 Anthony Domelle
 Jennifer Doneski
 Kimberly Drobac
 Jerry Duggins

10

Ryan Dulla
 Ryan Duvall
 Klint Duvall
 Daniel Dyer
 Erika Eckstrom
 Nicole Eich
 Elisabeth Elliott

11

Dennis Emmart
 Carl Ervin
 Jaime Escobedo
 Thomas Escott
 Vernon Fairley
 Michael Falk
 Amanda Farley

12**2000**

Alaina Fasel
 Lisa Fastero
 Adam Fedak
 Tracy Ferguson
 Mandy Ferjo
 Anomi Fernando
 Audrey Finneerty



ZACHARY FRANK

Zach Frank, '98, was one of the select students in the Show Choir.

Two of his favorite activities are show choir and theater. In Show Choir, Zach was required to learn different songs and dances. He said that he has been in musicals since the sixth grade, starting with "Cinderella." Frank has also done several plays with the Ross Music Theater, such as "Oliver," "Joseph," and "Cinderella."

His dancing and singing excellence earned him the honor of singing with the All-State Honor Choir when he was in the seventh and eighth grade. Frank has been performing nonstop for many years. Dancing was his forte since he has been a student at Lyn Knight Dance Center where he was selected for the Lyn Knight Competition Team.

Frank was also been privileged enough to work as an extra for "Miracle on 34th Street" and "Losing Isaiah." In the '96 Choir Benefit Concert he was famous for getting kicked around by T.J. Miller, '98, during the song "I Will Survive." The audience was amused seeing Frank being pushed around and yelled at. It turned out to be one of the more dramatic sides of the choir's performance.

Frank also sang the male solo part for the Show Choir's song "Total Eclipse of the Heart" at the Benefit Concert.

One time after a play he took one of his female friends to his house. He recalled that evening, "I had a girl stay over at my house. She was in "Guys & Dolls" with me, and I started coughing. I blew chunks at her, then I ran to the bathroom!"

One of Frank's long-range goals is to go to the University of Notre Dame. Still, he has three more years high school, and he plans to make his mark. So far he is achieving his goals.

■ Jason Blankinship





Brandon Fisher
July Fitzgerald
Tiffany Fizer
Derek Floyd
Melissa Flutka
Melissa Fogarty
Joseph Francis
Zachary Frank



Andrea Frank
Danah Frazier
Joshua Gaboian
Kelly Gaboyan
Antoine Gaines
Keenan Gallagher
Janice Garcia
Richard Garcia



Kellie Gasperson
Anthony Gemmato
Joseph Gemmato
Nicholas Gill
Candice Gillespie
Justin Gilmore
Andrew Gima
Goce Gjoreski



Carolyn Goin
Samantha Golden
Desiree Gonzalez
Heather Gooch
Aleksandar Goreski
Douglas Graves
Jessica Gray
Elizabeth Greco



Maryanne Green
Kathy Gregory
Ryan Gregory
Farmella Griffin
George Grigonis
Shannon Grimmer
Kian Guardiola
Leticia Guardiola



Angela Guzman
Kelsie Hall
Matthew Hall
Nickole Hall
Jason Hallums
Christine Hamilton
Towanda Hammonds
Brandon Hanley



Carri Hansbury
Bryan Harbour
Cicely Harris
Marc Harris
Colleen Harstad
Jennifer Hayes
Robert Hemphill
Gabriel Hernandez



Nicole Hess
Beth Hirjak
Terri Hoffman
Evan Hoglund
Carole Holtz
Julie Hoover
Jeffrey Hopkins
Keith Hosler

Syrita Howard
Mark Hudson
William Lamar Hunter
Joseph Jackson
Meagan Jackson
Bruce Janda
Jaime Janowsky
Ryan Jezuit



Brandy Johnson
William Johnson
Jessy Johnston
Melissa Johnston
Ebony Jones
Jimmy Jones Jr.
Terracina Jones
Larry Jorgensen



Goce Jovanoski
Malakhi Joyner
Sarah Jurisa
Bradley Kamano
Cynthia Karabetsos
Heather Karbowski
Daniele Kardosh
Raymond Keilman



Scott Keilman
Daniel Kelaita
Sarah Kelly
Nichole Kempa
Victor Kendera
Aaron Kesler
Robert Kleinaman
Ronnie Klemoff



Jared Kloth
Abigail Kochek
Kira Kolschefski
Andrew Kora
Ben Kostelnik
Nikolaj Kostur
Michael Koteles
Dale Kras



Eftihia Kritikos
Lindsey Krumrie
Stephen Kuhn
James Kulick
Neil Kuntz
Christina Laas
Nathaniel Lacny
Laura Lair



Michael Lamb
Amanda Laviotte
Ryan Lawrence
Tyriece Laws
Andrew Lech
Vandalou Leventis
Brandi Lewis
Jonathon Lexsa



Sarah Liakos
Michelle Lindahl
Natalie Lindsey
Melissa Loar
Randy Lockett
Maria Luisa Lopez
Mario Lopez
Kristen Lorick



9



Gary Ludwig
Jaenine Luevano
James Luttinen
Amber Lyle
Kewin Mabon
Brenton Mac Donald
Jennifer Mac Neal

10



Nicholas Madrid
Vincent Magee
Richard Maj
Cheryl Major
Joseph Makarovski
Marisa Malave
Jessica Malis

11



Melissa Maragos
Stephen Marelich
Kristina Maringes
Janice Marler
Kendall Martin
Natalie Martin
Megan Mashburn

12



Chasity Mason
Bethany Matlock
Tare Mayersky
John Mc Carty
Nicole Mc Carty
Stephany Mc Carty
Michael Mc Cord

2000

RYAN PETRY

He's a band man, a golf fanatic, and he's affectionately known as the "PIT," Pirate In Training. He's Ryan Petry, '00, and he's got MHS in the palm of his hand.

"At first being the Pirate was really tough. The head is huge, and it gets really hot. The first football game I cheered I could hear a lot of rude comments, but it's gotten better."

Attending all the football and basketball games won't be anything unusual to him. He has been in band through middle school playing the tenor saxophone. "I like band because it's a worthwhile activity, and a lot of my friends participate in it too."

But band and pirating isn't the only thing Petry does. He has played baseball since he was young, but doesn't plan to grace the MHS fields with his talent.

"I can't play to save my life! I've been playing since I was 5 and I'm terrible!" He hopes to play golf instead.

With all this ambition, there was only one thing standing in his way. He was born with one leg shorter than the other, which had to be corrected if he wanted to walk normally. He had to undergo major surgery and have the bone lengthened, and was then on crutches for six months until his leg was strong enough to hold his weight.

Petry was unable to handle all the walking involved in golf, which was one of the things he hated most about being on the crutches. When he was finally able to walk, he went out and played 18 holes in mid-November.

Petry's goals for the next four years are to have fun, get good grades, and go out with a bang.

■ Stacey Brown



9

La'Toya Mc Gee
 Keith Mc Kay
 Jeana Mc Laughlin
 Delmos Mc Millian
 Erin McGee
 Brett McIndoo
 Robyn McIndoo

10

Mahogany Mead
 Billy Meadows
 Erin Meeks
 Josh Mchay
 Milton Mejia
 Kristin Mersot
 David Mesarch

11

12

David Metcalf
 Tina Michael
 Mark Milak
 Jeffrey Miller
 Jeffrey A. Miller
 Richard Miller
 Scott Mirsky

2000

Nicole Montalbano
 Billy Morgan
 Demetrius Morgan
 Heather Morgan
 George Morris
 Jason Morris
 Beth Mullenix



TIMOTHY RADFORD

Tim Radford had been hooked on computers his entire life. "Computers are cool!" he exclaimed.

He was not only into computers and the internet, he had multiple interests in broadcast journalism (WMHS Productions). Radford also had some curiosity in electronics. When he purchased his computer a couple of years ago, he just experimented. Since then, he can be found on every local, regional, and national website.

Of course electronics had their fun times and aggravating times. Everybody that messed with electronics got shocked at least a few times in their life. Radford said that one thing that really aggravated him was getting electrocuted.

At the planetarium, Radford helped out Mr. Williams by running some of the shows. He also helped set-up some of the computer programs that ran the projector, among other things.

Radford could also be found working hard before and after school for WMHS Productions (Pirate News Network and Pirate Radio). In WMHS, he enjoyed taping football games, choir, band, and orchestra concerts, school plays and productions. He also taped the Friday PNN Weekend Report in the TV studio, located in the back of the Media Center. He could be heard on Pirate Radio in the cafeteria during different lunch hours, you can also hear him in the morning before homeroom.

His determination and enthusiasm kept him going. His success was credited to never giving up. So if you were ever on the internet and you saw the name "Don Juan," that was Radford.

■ Jason Blankinship





Amy Mulloy
Lindsay Mysliwiec
Carrie Nash
Eric Navarro
Christine Nawrocki
Allison Neri
Leslie Newell
Krystal Newton



Juli O' Brian
Jeffri O'Keefe
Tanya Obetskiy
Phillip Obov
Lawrence Obregro
Phillip Oh
Gregory Ostrovich
Shameka Ottman



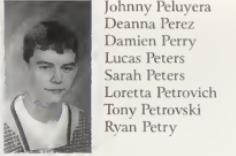
Konnie Pace
Lydia Pacheco
Melania Page
Morgan Palmateer
Justin Palo
Shannon Palo
Maria Papamihalkis
Abbie Parduhn



Tanika Parker
Courtney Parsons
Mike Passaloukos
Nicole Patel
Nichole Paulsall
Terry Peak
Keynn Pearson
Diana Pejoska



Johnny Peluyera
Deanna Perez
Damien Perry
Lucas Peters
Sarah Peters
Loretta Petrovich
Tony Petrovski
Ryan Petry



Tando Pigg
Jessica Plasencia
Amanda Plummer
John Poling
Justin Porter
Maria Portes
Nicholas Porzuczek
Nicole Potts



Camille Powell
Denise Prince
Melissa Pitt
Kathryn Pumnea
Kashif Qureshi
Timothy Radford
Suzana Radiceski
Mia Rausei



Andrea Recio
Israel Recio
Jared Reed
Ronald Reid Jr.
Krystal Renn
Linda Reyna
Brenda Riley
Jeremy Rinker

Michele Ristovski
Matthew Rivera
James Roames
David Robbins
Roger Roberson
Deanna Roberts
Kimberley Roberts
Jeremy Robertson



Esco Robinson
Allison Rodrick
Brian Rodriguez
Jacob Rodriguez
Rogelio Rojo
Desiree Roman
Norma Roman
Elizabeth Rosaves



Brian Rose
Lance Roy
Jason Rushing
Stephen Salas
Carla Salazar
Dinesh Samuel
Yanira Sanchez
Rick Sandilla



Kevin Santelik
Justin Santeramo
Steven Savka
Carlos Saxon
Raymon Saxon
Lisa Scheffer
Christopher Schlesinger
Jeffrey Schouten



Kristen Seagraves
Anne Marie Selby
Ray Shaffer
Jason Shapiro
Byron Sharp
Joshua Sherron
Tiffany Siggers
Andrew Simpson



Sandy Skratsky
April Skura
Becky Skura
Claire Slivka
Crystal Smetana
Brandi Smith
Dennis Smith
Katherine Smith



Marvin Smith
Ryan Smith
Tiffany Smith
Tifiney Smith
William Smith
Jacob Snover
Amber Solomon
Banessa Sonaty



Andreas Spanos
Carolyn Sprague
Sarah Sprague
Kandace Stanford
Jerrona Stanley
Sara Stanzione
Dustin Stark
Robert Stewart



9



Tiffany Stochel
Jennifer Straub
Shea Street
Jenny Strom
Jeff Styles
Peter Suleski
Elizabeth Sullivan

10

11

12

2000

Kelley Sullivan
Brian Sur
Taunalynn Swisher
Daved Symanski
Mary Szczerba
Joel Tapper
Richard Taylor

Chrissine Teets
Shivani Tejuja
Michael Terek
Timothy Terry
Frederick Thiel
David Thomas
James Thomas

Jessica Thornley
Jason Thorpe
Jock Thorpe
Paul Todoroski
Joann Trajkovski
Ryan Transfiguracion
Lance Trpkoski

KEVIN SANTELIK

"I don't ever want to go fishing again."

Kevin Santelik blurted this out after describing a 4-H camping trip in which he was a camp counselor. The camp consisted of teenagers and adults supervising activities for seven to ten year old kids. He was in charge of teaching them how to fish. Unfortunately, he accidentally left the bait on the dock for several hours on a hot and sunny day. He realized his mistake when he went to gather the equipment later in the day. The once live worms had been cooked to death.

Santelik remarked, "You could say they were melting."

Aside from this disgusting incident, his 4-H experiences have been good. One of his favorite activities was building rockets. The participants bought kits and built the rockets by themselves. Then, they entered them in a contest. According to Santelik, the fun part came after the contest.

He commented, "I destroyed a lot of mine, actually. After the launch it's more fun. You can do what you want with them."

To Santelik, that meant sabotage. His favorite thing to do was glue the nose cone shut so the parachute couldn't open. When the parachute shot up, the cone failed to pop off and the rocket blew up.

4-H also sent members on trips to Purdue University in West Lafayette. They were given the opportunity to choose several classes. Santelik chose, among others, a science class. They used dry ice to demonstrate the inner workings of a light bulb. Apparently, a light bulb couldn't light if the filament was exposed to oxygen. So the students lit up a bulb, stuck the filament into the dry ice, and cracked the glass. The filament remained lit. Then they took it out of the ice. The oxygen in the air destroyed the filament.

While Santelik won't be going fishing anytime soon, 4-H did give him a plan for the future. He wanted to major in engineering at Purdue University.

■ Chris Sikich



9

Steve Tsahas
Heather Tuft
Michelle Uremovich
Krystal Urquidi
Daniel Vadás
Vanessa Valle
Amanda Valse

10

Jaclyn Van Dusseldorp
Erynn Van Loon
Denise Varble
Christopher Vargas
Michael Vargas
Sevia Vazanellis
Omar Velez

11

Jose Venegas III
Edwardo Villarreal
Jennifer Villars
Jaclynn Visue
Mirjana Vlahovic
Matthew Vurva
Robert Waldon

12**2000**

Monique Walton
Ti-Yon Ward
April Wardell
Nicholas Wardrip
Michael Washington
Kristin Weigl
Benito White



MARY SZCZERBA

How does Mary keep herself from being just another face in the crowd? "I do what ever hits me at that specific moment in time, no matter what anyone thinks," replied Szczesna.

She was involved in the color guard, band, and running track and field. Of all hundred plus teachers in our school Szczesna's favorite was English teacher Viveca Carter. "Mrs. Carter is really cool, and she will talk to you about any of your problems." Also, her most enjoyed aspects of high school is "the guys and freedom of self expression," she exclaimed. Szczesna really enjoyed her lunch half hour when she could cut loose with friends and just get crazy and wild around the lunch table with her and the rest of her click. There every one was able to joke around and poke fun at each other and not have to worry about offending them "because every one has a sense of humor and can take a joke."

As for when she is out of school, activities that Szczesna did regularly were to hang out with friends because she rarely has time to spend with them. "Hanging out and going shopping with my friends takes up most of my free, free time." She admitted her most embarrassing moment so far was "three years ago at Christmas when I slid across a cement floor head first into a head dive against the side of a couch, because I didn't remember it until the next day." Inspite of being embarrassed, that same Christmas was her most memorable moment "because it rocked," she said.

After graduating in the year 2000, Szczesna wanted to attend college and become a physical therapist. She chose to be a doctor because she liked "to help people, and it just always sounded fun." And when she is done paying for college and making lots of money, she wants to get a corvette and just cruise and show it off.

■ Don DeLong





White
James Williams
Jermece Williamson
Damion Wilson
Wilson
Jamie Winfield
Dennis Winn Jr.
Angela Witter

Brian Woolwine
Frank Woszcynski
Jennifer Yugo
Lorna Zaber
Daniel Zajac
Timothy Zakutansky
Roger Zamora
Angie Ziller

Underclass Not Pictured

Tyron Adams, '98
Ali Ali, '00
Nicole Amberson, '99
Jacob Amundsen, '00
Olympia Anthony, '99
Tia Austin, '99
Kelly Beckman, '00
Shaleak Brown, '00
Stephanie Bulanda, '98
John Casteel, '98
Eddie Cather, '99
Brian Craig, '99
Matthew Dixon, '00
Esperanza Escalante, '99
Carmen Ferrer, '00
Brandy Frey, '99
James Garneau, '00
Brian George, '98
Antonio Godinez, '99

Keith Gouwens, '99
Ramon Guardiola, '00
Brian Gueyser, '98
Laura Hahney, '98
Joseph Harbour, '98
Laura Hass, '99
Kenneth Hayes, '98
Shaumanika Herrod, '00
Tonya Hicks, '98
David Hosler, '98
Monique Jackson, '00
Sean Jackson, '99
Tiffany Jenkins, '00
Jason Littleton, '98
Rodney Mabon, '99
Eric Mares, '00
John Matusik, '00
Roger Maull, '00

Diane Mc Kissack, '00
Sean Mc Millian, '00
Ryan Mc Gee, '00
Shawna Meadows, '99
Jeffrey Meeks, '98
Hector Mendez, '00
Michael Milys, '00
Mbaneto Onyeaka, '99
Jonathan Panozzo, '00
Randall Pelfrey, '99
Julius Reed, '99
Michelle Petit, '98
Paul Pittman, '98
Rafael Ramirez, '98
Ryan Rentschler, '98
Shenley Roberts, '00
Jose Rojo, '98
Tanya Ruth, '00

Kimberly Smith, '99
Kyle Spraberry, '99
Kelvin Stanford, '98
Jamie Stephen, '00
Candice Storey, '00
Ryan Straub, '98
Mindy Summers, '99
Jeffrey Tapper, '98
Jacob Thomas, '98
Michael Tucker, '99
Romel Tucker, '99
Michael Walker, '00
Kristina White, '99
Brandon Williams, '00
Tasha Williams, '98
Reanne Woodke, '98
Karl Wright, '00
Nina Zamora, '98



WAITING PATIENTLY
Candidates for the freshman Homecoming Court pose for pictures with their escorts.

LOOKING TO WIN
Adam Deel advances the ball toward the goal with an opponent in pursuit.

FACULTY

Paul Abernathy, Math
Beverly Ambroziak, Business
Janet Anderson, Art
William Angelidis, Science
Joe Atria, Science
Amy Bakalar, Music
Maryanne Battistini, Guidance



Barb Dlouhy, MOMH
Nancy Draper, Math
Patty Dudak, Science
Miles Dunscombe, Science
Lori Dust, Physical Education
Jim East, Social Studies
Richard Ebler, Social Studies



SHARON ESTES

What's it like to have three fulltime jobs? If you're English teacher Sharon Estes, it's an everyday occurrence.

Estes commented about her three fulltime jobs. "Definitely, one of my greatest challenges is accommodating everything and everyone I value. As the pastor's wife of a growing, vibrant congregation, I am enmeshed in church life; music, education, bi-weekly care group at my home, other people's lives, and of course—meetings. In addition, my husband is Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis this year so we participate in many community activities." A minister's wife is expected to help her husband with his activities and community projects.

Then of course is her teaching profession.

"One of my most memorable moments in teaching, was when I taught Classical Mythology at a former high school to a student who obviously knew more than I did about the subject."

After this, she quickly learned the futility of pretending to be an expert. Other moments in teaching include watching students who obviously struggled in her class being able to pull through and pass. To her they have learned more than just the subject matter.

The people with the greatest influence in Mrs. Estes's life have been her parents. Her parents were not college educated, but they knew the weight of a high school and college diploma.

One of her highlights was being able to teach in the same school that her daughter Ashley attended. To her it was ideal, even though they did not get to see each other much during the day. Estes always looked forward to her daughter dropping in, even if it was just because she forgot her lunch money. She also has a son, Daniel, who is kindergarten age. He keeps her busy.

■ Don DeLong





Dee Edgcomb, Guidance
Jim Edgcomb, Social Studies
Roger Emig, Music
Sharon Estes, English
Tom Feeney, Math
Diane Firme, English
Edie Fisher, English
Jennifer Fuller, English



Mary Ann Galanis, Social Studies
Rick Garner, Industrial Arts
Beth Given, Math
Ray Hamilton, Foreign Language
Greg Hatch, English and Alternative
School
Dick Hill, Math
Jan Hughes, Business
Rick Hurey, Industrial Arts



Max Hutchison, Math
Bill Idzior, Math
Sherm Izsak, Physical Education
Jim Johnston, Industrial Arts
Jerry Kasarda, English and Quest
Shelley Kavots, Family and
Consumer Sciences
Barb Koby, English
Lee Konecny, English



Rosellen Kozel, Work Study
Coordinator
Mike Krutz, Industrial Arts
Maggie Lain, Health
Judy LeDuc, Business
Connie Lewis, English
Diane Mandon, Social Studies
Kristin McMurtrey, English
Mona Miller, Physical Education



Afrodite Mitrakis, Family and
Consumer Sciences
Pat Mullovy, Social Studies
Jack Neuliep, Science
Andrew Niksich, Business
Judy Oates, Social Studies
Marianne Oates, LRE Facilitator
Linda Oldenburg, Art
Debbie Onika, Science



Tom Peller, Math
Kathy Peters, Math
Ryan Pitcock, English
Josefina Poprat, Foreign Language
Terry Pratt, Art
Lisa Precourt, Foreign Language
Bernadine Putz, Business
Geri Rainey, English as a Second
Language



Wanda Rice, Art
Artie Rogers, Social Studies
Mark Rosenbaum, Physical Education
Bonnie Sanders, Foreign Language
Pam Schilling, Media Specialist
Violet Schmuck, Math
Beverley Seaver, English
Mary Shoshoo, Math
Mary Simmons, Social Studies



Don Sly, Science
Irene Spiro, Foreign Language
Maggie Stallings, Family and
Consumer Sciences
Jean Stanford, Journalism and
English
Evelyn Steiner, Foreign Language
Randy Stelter, English
Laura Stoner, Family and Consumer
Sciences

FACULTY

Michelle Sulich, LRE Facilitator
 Melissa Szcerba, MONH Teacher
 Dave Teeter, Industrial Arts
 Rick Terpstra, English
 Barbara Timmerman, Music
 Jim Vermillion, Science
 Carol Von Behren, Family
 and Consumer Sciences

Cheryl Wilczynski, Math
 Janet Wilson, LRE Facilitator
 Madeline Wilson, Foreign
 Language
 Michelle Wilson, LRE Facilitator
 Rick Wimmer, Physical
 Education
 Bruce Woods, English
 Jeff Yelton, Science



Dave Zimmerman, Business

EXTRA HOURS ■

*German/English teacher
 Eddie Fisher grades papers
 at her desk. English
 teachers constantly have
 comps to grade.*



Faculty Not Pictured

Steve DeVillez, Broadcast Journalism
 and Media Specialist
 Linda Fry, English
 Sally Morgan, Science
 Allen Rawlings, Computer Tech
 Shirley Renner, Guidance
 John Seale, Computer



JIM VERMILLION

"You're not students! You people make me want to cry."

These words daily resound off the walls of Mr. Vermillion's physics room as his students cringe in terror at the large man screaming at them about the necessity of reading the physics chapter three times and working out all of the example problems.

Vermillion commented, "The work ethic of students has gone down to an extent, but it's hard to quantify an amount."

Vermillion had always had a strong work ethic and a desire to learn. As a boy growing up in a rural town he amused himself by taking apart anything that he could find. As a result, he instantly fell in love with his first physics class in high school, even though he didn't have a clue about what was going on, for the simple reason that physics presented a "challenge."

Vermillion quickly realized that physics was his future so he chose it as a major in college at Indiana State. He received his Bachelor degree there and went to Brown University for his masters. His next step was to earn a degree in engineering. But, he decided to teach physics at Merrillville in his free time. That decision changed the course of his life. Vermillion quickly dropped his engineering goals and devoted his life to teaching physics. He was later appointed head of the science department by a former principal.

He commented, "It was years ago. I don't even remember who it would have been it was so long ago."

After a life devoted to learning, Vermillion has trouble understanding how students failed to take advantage of all the material made available in high school. He perceived this as a lower work ethic due to a lack of self confidence."

He commented, "Students should use the abilities they have instead of giving up."

His intense and sometimes scary behavior in class was his way of trying to solve this problem.

■Chris Sikich



AFTER HOURS ■

Many teachers, such as Quest teacher Jerry Kasarda sponsor clubs. Kasarda notes students participating in Red Ribbon Week.



ALL DRESSED UP ■

Choir director Roger Emig smiles as he waits for the Christmas choir concert to begin.



PLAYING ALONG ■

Band director Mary Clay plays her trombone with the Pep Band at a home basketball game.

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Ronald Price, Assistant Superintendent for Business



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Beverly Bashia, Assistant Principal
Tom Herbert, Assistant Principal
Janice Minor, Assistant Principal



Tom Cameron, Assistant

Athletic Director

Drew Furuness, Director of Guidance

Mary McVade, Director of Technology

Janis Qualizza, Athletic Director

Gerrald Reinhart,

Auditorium Director

Mary Lou Sproat, Director of Media Services

Rich Wachsmann, Director for Instructional Technology



DUSTY RHODE

Most people know him by the now famous quote, "Because you deserve it!" Many others have met him in the cafeteria or talked to him in the hall. Introducing the one, the only, Principal Forrest L. (Dusty) Rhode.

One would think that along with being chairman of the Boys and Girls Club, and being a principal for over 16 years that it would be time for retirement, but not according to Rhode.

Rhode was formally the principal at Portage High School. He retired from that position in June of 1995 just to take some time off. However, he started the 1996-97 school year by supervising student teachers for Indiana University Northwest.

Rhode came to Merrillville High School as Interim Principal in the middle of October of 1996 when principal Dr. Daniel C. Rapacz announced plans to take a position in Florida.

Rhode said he came to Merrillville "to see if the magic would still work." He also thought it would be a very exciting experience. He first became a principal because he wanted to be where the action was. Rhode wanted to impact students' lives, and he wanted to maintain the direct contact with students and teachers.

Rhode's job was to make sure MHS got through the '96-'97 school year. He was scheduled to leave MHS on June 10; however, before the school year was over his contract was extended to include the 1997-98 school year which delighted the teachers and staff.

Although his humorous approach to many situations was different than students and teachers were used to, we soon adjusted to each other. He explained his "expectations" and most students learned to live up to them.

In spite of a misunderstanding about the trip to the Dunes, Rhode feels he has somewhat of a bond with the Senior Class since originally graduation meant that they both would be done at MHS.

He believes that if students have a positive attitude, they deserve good things to come their way. Because after all, "We deserve it!"

■ Deanna Gonzalez



STAFF



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Shirley Barclay, Secretary to
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Elizabeth Frasca, Media
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Carol Hogan, Main Office
Secretary
Elaine Hydinger, Registrar
Debbie Klippl, Secretary to
the Assistant Principals
Carol Lamprecht, Student
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James Leposky, Security
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Services Secretary
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Secretary

Mary Johnson, SE Aide
Sandra Miller, SE Aide
Debbie Robinson, SE Aide
Kathy Wilczynski, SE Aide
Carol Jean Witten, SE Aide



ON THE MARCH

Dr. Bud Marks shelters his candle to keep it from blowing out. He was participating in the Candlelight March as a part of Red Ribbon Week sponsored by SADD Club.



EXTRA HOURS

Board member Mark Lucas eats his meal at the annual Roots and Wings dinner. Members of the School Board are often asked to attend school functions.

Angelo T. Stath

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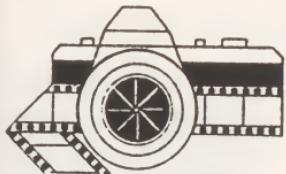
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Mom

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*Thank you
very much and
God Bless!!*

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Tiffany '93
Wilfred '94
Abigail '95
Eugene '97

Ken, Congratulations!



Wishing you all the best in college and your future plans. Good Luck!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Jenny,
Chris, and Lindsey

Ken Gabriel



CONGRATULATIONS, CHRISTINE I'm proud of your accomplishments!



Christine Rodriguez

Remember your goals and follow your dreams.

*God Bless You,
Mom*

Congratulations Kristie,



Kristie Gentry

We're very proud of you.
Good luck at Purdue!
Love,
Mom, Dad and Michelle

Congratulations Christopher!



We're proud of your accomplishments at MHS. We're sure you'll continue to make a big SPLASH as you follow your goals and dreams to the future.

*Our Love,
Mom and Dad*

Christopher Sikich



MICHAEL SCOTT STUPAR

READY, for your future?
SET, on your goals?
GO, get "em" Son.

You'll always be a
thumb buddy.

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Robin
and Stephanie*



Michael Scott Stupar

Congratulations Lehman



Lehman L. Best

You've come a long
way baby!

*Love,
Mom and Dad*



Kimberly Dawn Pero

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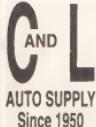
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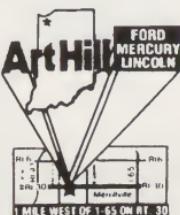
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Joe Giordano

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OF YOU!**

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Mom and Dad*

Congratulations, Nikki



Nicole Kimmet

**Your whole family
is proud.**

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Mom and Dad*

We're so proud
of you Joe.



Joe Giordano

*Love,
Nana and Pappa Lenkey*

CONGRATULATIONS, CATHY

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Congratulations, Mandy



Mandy Kirk
You had only
just begun,
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far you've come!
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I'm very proud of you.



T.J. Stochel

Wishing you all the hap-
piness life can give!

Love,
Ann

Congratulations Katie



Katie Shaparoff

We're proud of your
accomplishments.

Love,
Mom and Dad

We're proud of you, Deanna



*I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13

Love,
Mom, Priscilla,
and Elena

Deanna R. Gonzelez



Congratulations, Jay



Jay Richardson

May all of life's
deadlines go smoothly.

Mrs. Stanford and the Staff

Maurene, You're Special!



Maurene Dawn Skura

God's blessings for
your future.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Don



Don DeLong

Best wishes for a
great future.

Mrs. Stanford and the Staff

Bart Congratulations!



What a wonderful gift you are!
You've brought us so much joy!

May you follow your heart and
make all your dreams come true!

- Good Luck -

Love, always your family

Bart C. Pruzin



Congratulations, Kristen



Kristen Galvan

We're so very
proud of you.

"Choonie,"
Mom, Dad and Marissa

**Congratulations,
NICK**



Nicolas S. Gonzalez

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Mom, Dad, Jesus, and Grandma

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Gina Fastero

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Congratulations Jennifer!



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Student Government would like to extend an open invitation to any member of the MHS student body to come out and experience exactly what Student Government is all about.

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A member of the Basketball Homecoming Court walks across the gym floor during halftime ceremonies. Basketball Homecoming is one of many events sponsored annually by Student Government.

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MHS LOSES CAMERON

ASSISTANT A.D. LEAVES A LEGACY IN HIS WAKE

Merrillville has suffered a great loss. A man with many great achievements and a great personality left his family and friends on May 21, 1997.

Tom Cameron, Merrillville's Assistant Athletic Director, Wellness Director, loving husband, caring father, and faithful friend touched the lives of Merrillville students and faculty for 25 years.

While dining with a friend in Chicago, Cameron suffered a massive heart attack and was rushed to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Sadly, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Before he transferred to Merrillville High School, Cameron taught at Hammond Clark and Hammond Gavin high schools. He taught science and was Head Wrestling coach at Merrillville High School before moving on to his job as Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Wellness Services for Merrillville Community School Corporation five years ago.

He was well known by many throughout the Merrillville community. "It was impossible to travel anywhere in Indiana and talk high school athletics without knowing who Tom was," explained Fiebler Elementary School Principal Gary Sutton.

During Cameron's wake, over 1000 people traveled to Burn's Funeral Home in Merrillville to view his body.

Finally, Sutton added, "The one thing I'll remember about Tom is his dedication to young athletes and always wanting the best for them."

Tom Cameron will be sadly missed at Merrillville High School by everyone who knew him.

■ Amanda Buda and Marygrace Foster



CLOSE OF CAMERON ERA DOESN'T END INFLUENCE

Tom Cameron's presence will still be felt as his former wrestlers, such as physical education teacher and MHS wrestling coach Mark Rosenbaum, practice the things he taught them. An annual memorial scholarship will also be awarded in Cameron's name being in 1998.

CALLING IT QUILTS Four MHS teachers look to the future



Maryanne Battistini



Lee Bottom



Dick Hill



Max Hutchison

With last goodbyes to their peers Maryanne Battistini, Lee Bottom, Dick Hill, and Max Hutchison ended their teaching careers in June.

Battistini leaves her posi-

tion as senior counselor. She expressed plans to kick up her feet and relax.

Lee Bottom leaves a career in building trades. He commented that he had several

options for a second career.

Dick Hill and Max Hutchison are both retiring from the math department. Hill hopes to become a Master Gardener while Hutchison

plans to play a lot of golf.

MHS will miss the knowledge edge that each of these veterans has brought to the job. We hope they enjoy their retirement.

■ 1997 MERRILLVUE ■

Theme	Looking Deeper
Volume	72
Editor-in-chief	Chris Sikich
Spirit Editor	Krissy Malast
Lifestyles Editor	Krissy Malast
Academics Editor	Stacey Brown
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Ads Manager	Natalie Nimon
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Major Fonts Used	Arrus BT, Folio, Zaph Dingbats
Body Text	10 point Arrus BT
Captions	Roman
Senior Pictures	10 pt. Arrus BT Italic
Underclass Pictures	John Giolas Photographers
Sport Team Photos	Indiana School Pictures
Thanks To	Athletic Department
Press Run	Valerie T. Tanke, John Bir, David Evans, Patrick Farabaugh, Janis Quallizza, Tom Cameron, Dennis Crane
Price	1000 \$22, \$27, \$35

■ COLOPHON ■



The 1996-1997 MERRILLVUE Staff:

Row 1: Jodi Yambrisak, Deanna Gonzalez, Cathy Snelson, Megan Shelton. Row 2: Natalie Nimon, Nikki Blondeful, Erin McDermott. Row 3: Don DeLong, Stacey Brown, Krissy Malast, Jean Stanford. Row 4: Nick Farabaugh, Chris Sikich, Jason Blankinship. Not pictured: Chris Eastlee and Stephanie Nicolini.



■ EDITOR'S NOTE ■

■ Christopher P. Sikich

Stacey, Krissy, Stephanie: I'm sorry. I deeply apologize for doing this, but I can't help myself. However, this is my last quote. I promise. It's from Milton.

"To the last I grapple with thee; from hell's heart I stab at thee; for hate's sake I spit my last breath at thee."

Again, I apologize, but this book has been our white whale. Throughout the year it seemed like we had no hope of finishing. But, here we are.

I'd like to thank some people, because I certainly could never have done it by myself.

First off, Krissy, Stephanie and Stacey. You three admirably shouldered an extensive work load.

Stephanie, thanks for unfalteringly pointing out all of my faults while unfailingly telling me just what kind of an editor I was and, in fact, I could do with that editorship.

Stacey, thanks for putting up with my highly unorganized self and also for cheering up the room with your eversmiling presence. (By the way, what happened in the group photo.) I'll get those student driving pictures to you. I swear.

Krissy, thanks for graciously accepting all of the changes that I made in your spreads. I'm glad you never got mad, screamed, breathed fire, or ignored my "suggestions." But, seriously, you haven't yelled at me since the poms spread just after Christmas. Thanks.

Again, thank you all. This yearbook would have been an impossible dream if even one of you hadn't been on staff. I'll miss you.

Thanks also to Mrs. Stanford. You picked an editor with no yearbook experience whatsoever, who was just a "writer extraordinaire" from the newspaper. Thanks for giving me a chance. I really enjoyed putting out a yearbook. Remember, if it's bad, I'm just a writer. If it's good, it was all due to me.

Eastlee. What's there to say about Eastlee. You came on as a hired gun in the second semester and finished several spreads that the staff had absolutely no time for. Thanks for joining the yearbook. Oh, have fun with Jay and Nick in Europe and please, for God's sake, lose some weight. 190 pounds. Wow.

I'd also like to thank Jay Richardson. Jay, you weren't on the staff, but your presence as an aide was an inspiration. I appreciated your help with the scoreboard scans. And Jay, try to make sure Eastlee cuts back on the food in Europe.

Thanks to James Hale, Mike Rathburn, Helen Andreatos, Amanda Buda, and Marygrace Foster for writing and proofing stories in your spare time.

Thanks to the boy's swimming team and Coach Pitcock for...well, actually you guys didn't do anything for the yearbook. Nothing. Nada. Thanks a whole bunch fellahs. You were real helpful. I appreciated it.

Finally, thanks to my entire staff. Cathy, Megan, Nikki, Erin, Don, Jason, Nick, Jodi, Natalie, Eastlee, Stephanie, Krissy, and Stacey. We were a small staff, but we performed admirably. Especially, considering that not a one of us had worked on a yearbook before. We certainly harpooned our whale. (Or died trying, I'm not entirely sure which.)

Well, guys and gals, I think I can unbiasedly say that this is the best yearbook ever to come out of the publishing house of Merrillville High School. You did a great job.



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GIVE ME A CADENCE ■ The drumline performs in a pregame show before a home football game. To help with organization, the band is divided into sections.



IT'S THE WEEK-END ■ Hanging out with friends is a favorite pastime of most teens. Here a group gets together on Friday night for half price appetizers at Applebees.

Looking Deeper

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**RAISING SPIRIT**

Eugene Vivo entertains the crowd with his antics at a home basketball game. Vivo has been the mascot for four years.

ON THE MARCH ■ The Grand March of prom goers was held in the Hall of Flags for the first time to cut down traffic at the Serbian Hall.

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IDENTITY

ALL PART OF THE DAILY GRIND ■ Riding the bus to school is a regular part of the daily routine for many students. Here students wait for the second wave of buses for the trip home.



COACH OF THE YEAR

Bergeson is the "Voice of the Pirates" for football and basketball seasons. He was also *Times* Softball Coach of the Year for leading the softball team to their second State Championship in four years, a feat no other team in the state has achieved.

Looking Deeper

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**TOP ATHLETE ■**

Pitcher Leslie Malerich was named Times Softball Player of the Year. She was also named Times Female Athlete of the Year for her ability in volleyball, swimming, and softball.

IT'S OFFICIAL

■ The Super Fans cheer on the Bucs at a home football game.



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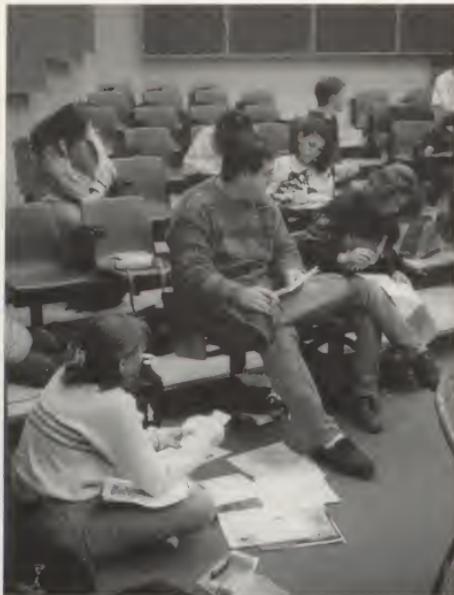
GETTING IN THE SPIRIT ■ The Show Choir performs one of their numbers from the annual Christmas Concert.



SHOWING WE CARE ■ Students participate in the Candlelight Walk as part of Red Ribbon Week sponsored by S.A.D.D.

Looking Deeper

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ROOM TO WORK ■ Seniors spread out to work on their papers. Many seniors have major papers in Advanced Comp and Economics.

GET IN STEP ■ Students dance the "YMCA" at the Homecoming dance. The dance is always popular despite its age because it's fun.



Looking Deeper

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"WHAT'S THE QUESTION?" ■ Students like to see themselves on the weekly PNN show answering the question of the week. PNN reporters often take the opportunity to get a variety of replies during lunch.

THE END OF THE YEAR WAS THE TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

■ "Oh! That my young life were a lasting dream!" ■ High school, for good or bad, was over. Students survived a new principal, hard practices, long school days, short evenings and shorter nights. The school survived people vandalizing the bathrooms and lockerrooms. ■ Most students, much like Edgar Allen Poe, wished that life was a dream. A dream that did not include drudgery and tiredness. But, like Poe, they found that life was often a harsh reality. ■ Tardies, detentions, fights, expulsions and other such things were a pain that the students were glad to see go. Likewise with the homework, rules, boredom and tiredness. The theft of almost a dozen car stereos was also a more than minor nuisance that many student drivers were glad to have over. ■ But, by the end of the year most of the bad things had been forgotten and the students were sorry to say goodbye to their friends. ■ It was a time for reminiscing. A time to highlight the year. ■ Like the first two cold weather, cancelled school days in three years. ■ Some students missed the dances and the honor of being a king or queen. Others missed the thrill of competition that the sports offered. A few even missed the experience of learning. All missed their friends. ■ It was the time for athletes to say goodbye to that influential coach and students to say

goodbye to that special teacher. ■ Unfortunately, the student body was sorry to dissolve. ■ For the seniors it was the last time they would visit the high school. Which for most was not considered a bad thing. But, it was a final farewell for many friends. As well as a touch of reality. Many students were thrown face first

into the world. Some were just going away for more school. The other three grade levels were saying three month farewells to their friends too.

■ "The wind went from West to East." ■ Tolkien's words come to mind for many students thinking about the direction their lives would be taking. ■ Whether college, a summer job or summer school most of them had to start thinking about the future and the "Winds of Change." ■ Like Asimov, many students realized that change was eminent. The seniors had entered real life. Juniors were coming back next year as the top class. Sophomores

were becoming upperclassmen and the freshmen...well the freshmen were just glad that they weren't going to be freshmen anymore. ■ As with Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" Students were all heading into a new world that was going to be drastically different than anything that came before. ■ "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."



OUT OF CONTROL Brandon Dzunda showed off his moves at Mommy Daddy date night.

B Y C H R I S T O P H E R S I K I C H

A Look Back

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

The girls swimming team gathered together for a cheer at their final meet.



LOOKING FORWARD



**MARCH-
ING IN ■**
The Class
of '97
parades in
to the
strains of
"Pomp
and
Circum-
stance" as
they take
the last
step
toward the
future.

